ANGEL™
SEASON 11
LIBRARY EDITION
JOSS WHEDON
CORINNA BECHKO
GERALDO BORGES
ZÉ CARLOS
MICHELLE MADSEN

ANGEL™

Angel, one of the only vampires in the world with a soul, has been walking the streets of Los Angeles for years, neither human nor vampire, acting as a vigilante against the forces of darkness in order to absolve himself of his years of horrible deeds. Now, his violent past is catching up with him, and he will have to travel back in time and space in order to prevent a future defined by his fatal mistakes.

ANGEL™

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ANGEL™

SEASON 11

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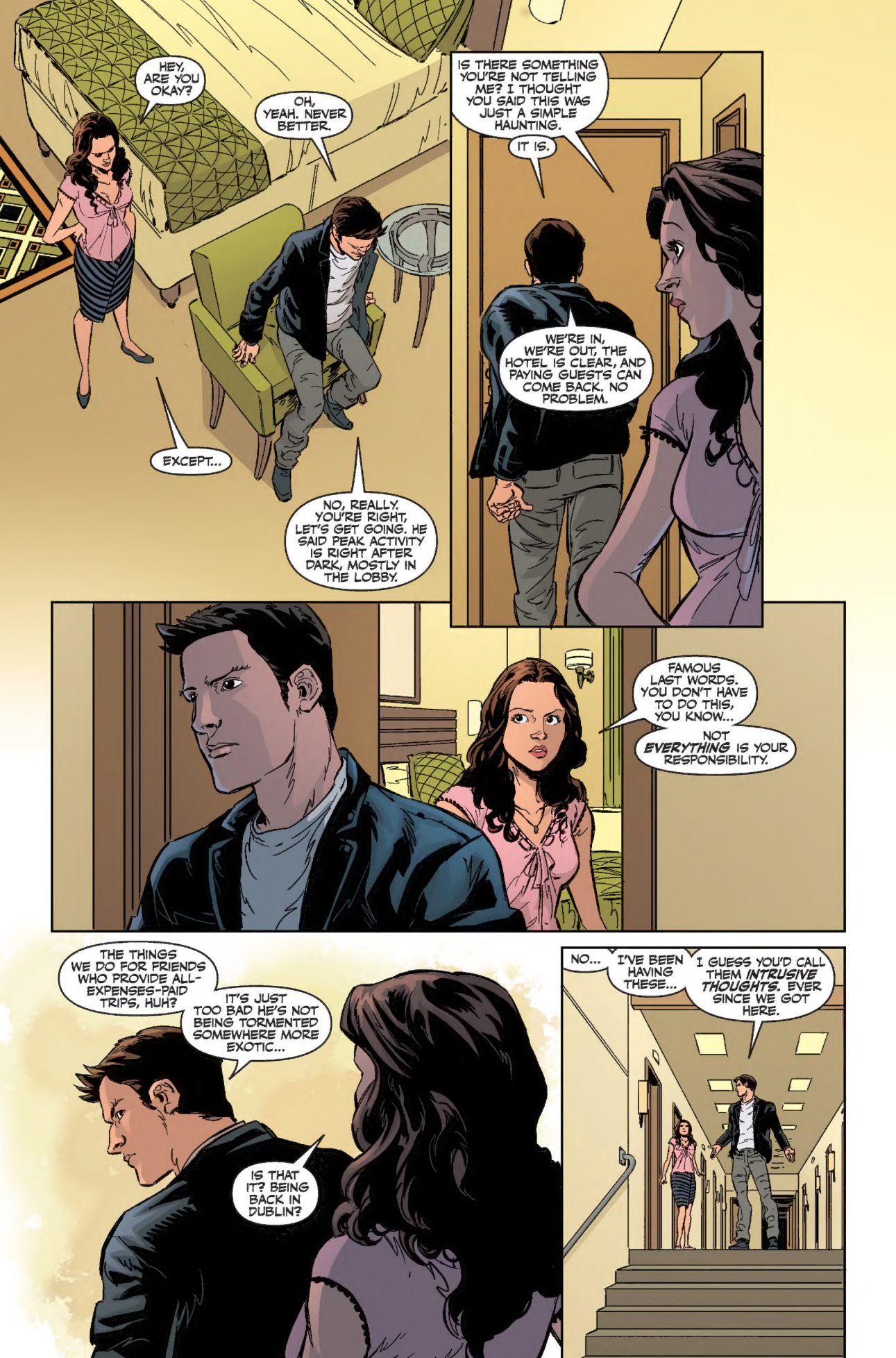
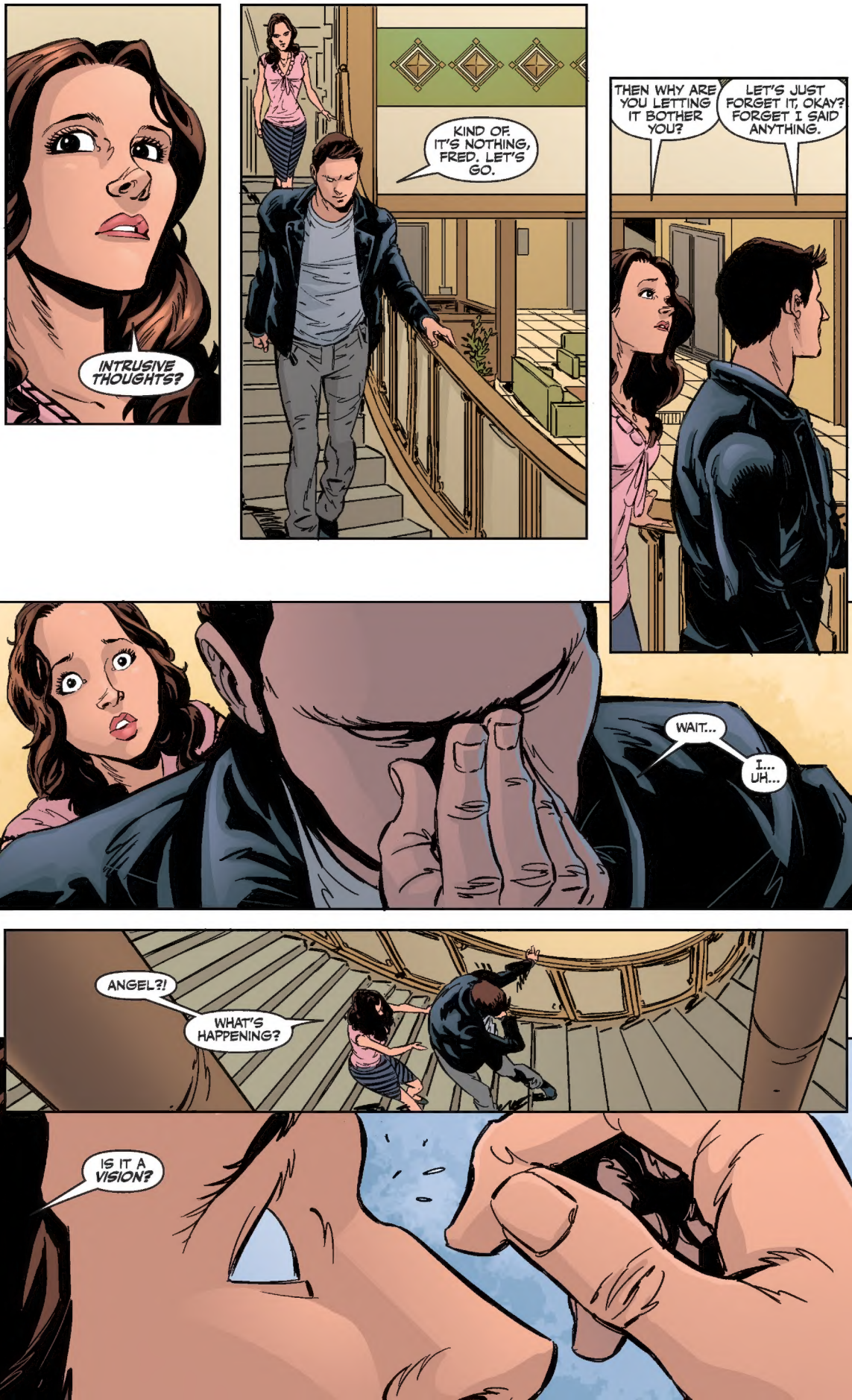
Colors by **Michelle Madsen**
Letters by **Richard Starkings & Comicraft's Jimmy Betancourt**

ANGEL?
ANGEL.
OUT OF THE PAST
PART ONE
DUBLIN, IRELAND.
I KNOW YOU'RE OLDER THAN YOU LOOK...
...BUT I THOUGHT YOUR KIND WAS IMMUNE TO HEARING LOSS.
HUH?
SUN'S ABOUT TO GO DOWN. WE SHOULD GET TO IT.
SORRY, FRED.


HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
OH, YEAH. NEVER BETTER.
EXCEPT...
NO, REALLY. YOU'RE RIGHT, LET'S GET GOING. HE SAID PEAK ACTIVITY IS RIGHT AFTER DARK, MOSTLY IN THE LOBBY.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME? I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WAS JUST A SIMPLE HAUNTING.
IT IS.
WE'RE IN, WE'RE OUT, THE HOTEL IS CLEAR, AND PAYING GUESTS CAN COME BACK. NO PROBLEM.
FAMOUS LAST WORDS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, YOU KNOW...
NOT *EVERYTHING* IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
THE THINGS WE DO FOR FRIENDS WHO PROVIDE ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIPS, HUH?
IT'S JUST TOO BAD HE'S NOT BEING TORMENTED SOMEWHERE MORE EXOTIC...
IS THAT IT? BEING BACK IN DUBLIN?
NO...
I'VE BEEN HAVING THESE...
I GUESS YOU'D CALL THEM *INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS.* EVER SINCE WE GOT HERE.


INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS?
KIND OF. IT'S NOTHING, FRED. LET'S GO.
THEN WHY ARE YOU LETTING IT BOTHER YOU?
LET'S JUST FORGET IT, OKAY? FORGET I SAID ANYTHING.
WAIT...
I... UH...
ANGEL?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IS IT A VISION?

THIN. IT'S WORN TOO THIN!

CAUGHT BY THE WINDING.

DON'T BE A FOOL...

WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE...

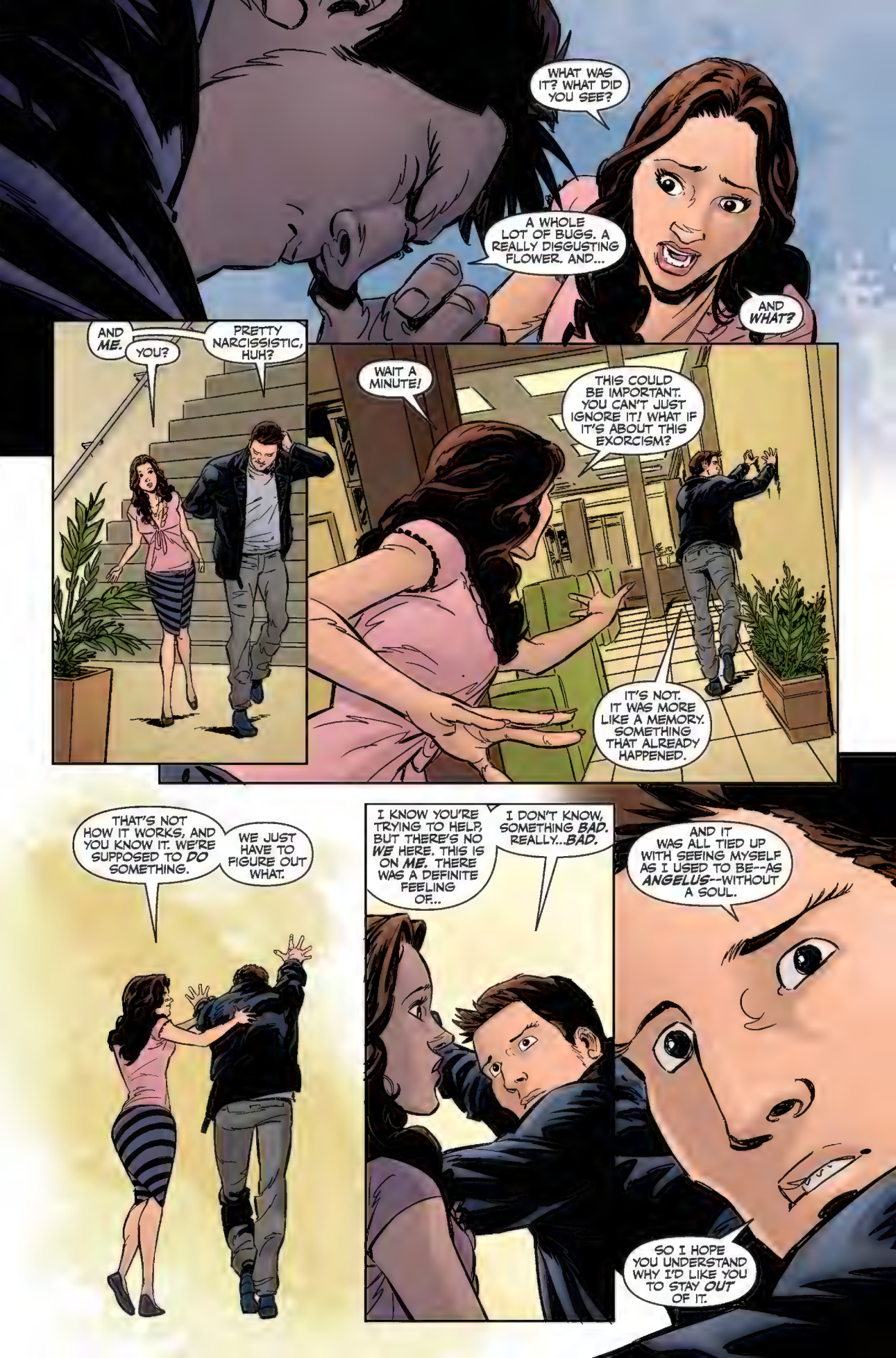
NO, NO SPACE LEFT, NO TIME LEFT...

DON'T...

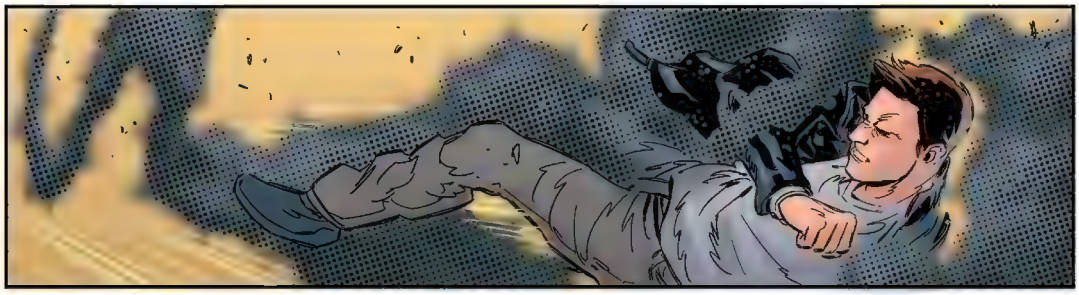
LET...

THEM...

THROUGH...

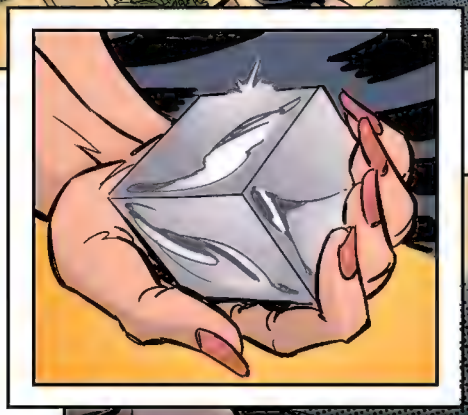

WHAT WAS IT? WHAT DID YOU SEE?
A WHOLE LOT OF BUGS. A REALLY DISGUSTING FLOWER. AND...
AND WHAT?
AND ME.
YOU?
PRETTY NARCISSISTIC, HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS COULD BE IMPORTANT. YOU CAN'T JUST IGNORE IT! WHAT IF IT'S ABOUT THIS EXORCISM?
IT'S NOT. IT WAS MORE LIKE A MEMORY. SOMETHING THAT ALREADY HAPPENED.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS, AND YOU KNOW IT. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO SOMETHING.
WE JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT.
I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP, BUT THERE'S NO WE HERE. THIS IS ON ME. THERE WAS A DEFINITE FEELING OF...
I DON'T KNOW, SOMETHING BAD. REALLY...BAD.
AND IT WAS ALL TIED UP WITH SEEING MYSELF AS I USED TO BE--AS ANGELUS--WITHOUT A SOUL.
SO I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY OUT OF IT.

BUT WE MAKE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM...
RIGHT?
AND IT'S NOT AS IF I DON'T HAVE COMPLICATIONS OF MY OWN. THAT'S NEVER STOPPED YOU FROM BEING THERE FOR ME.
LET ME ASK YOU THIS...
HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M NOT ALREADY INVOLVED? OR THAT THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO DO WITH ILLYRIA?
FRED, DO YOU THINK WE COULD MAYBE HAVE THIS DISCUSSION LATER?
WHY?
UCK!
FRED!
WHAP
FWUMP

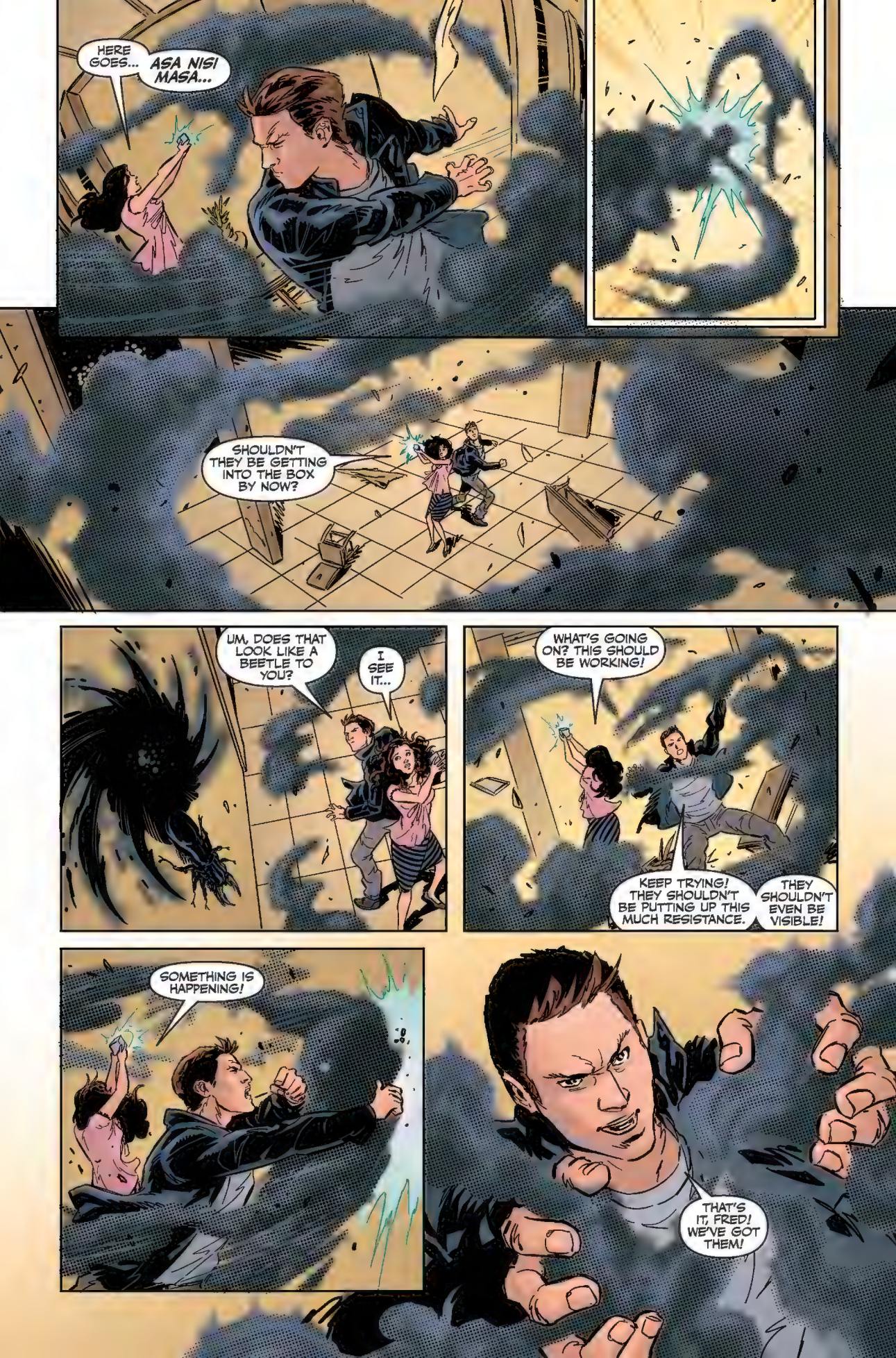


STILL GOT THE CAGE? REMEMBER THE WORDS?

ON IT!



NOW WOULD BE GOOD!

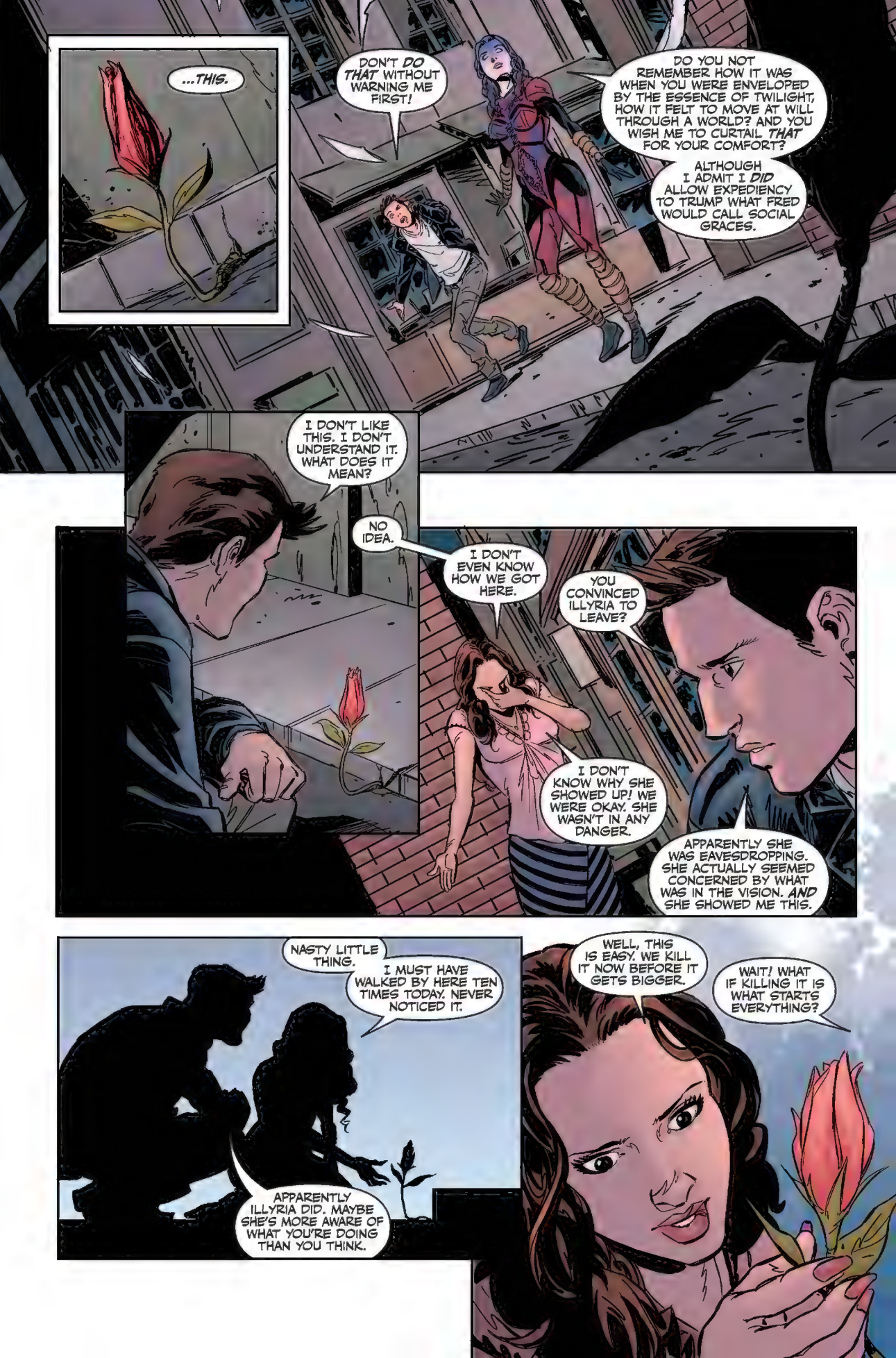

HERE GOES...
ASA NISI MASA...
SHOULDN'T THEY BE GETTING INTO THE BOX BY NOW?
UM, DOES THAT LOOK LIKE A BEETLE TO YOU?
I SEE IT...
WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS SHOULD BE WORKING!
KEEP TRYING! THEY SHOULDN'T BE PUTTING UP THIS MUCH RESISTANCE.
THEY SHOULDN'T EVEN BE VISIBLE!
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING!
THAT'S IT, FRED! WE'VE GOT THEM!

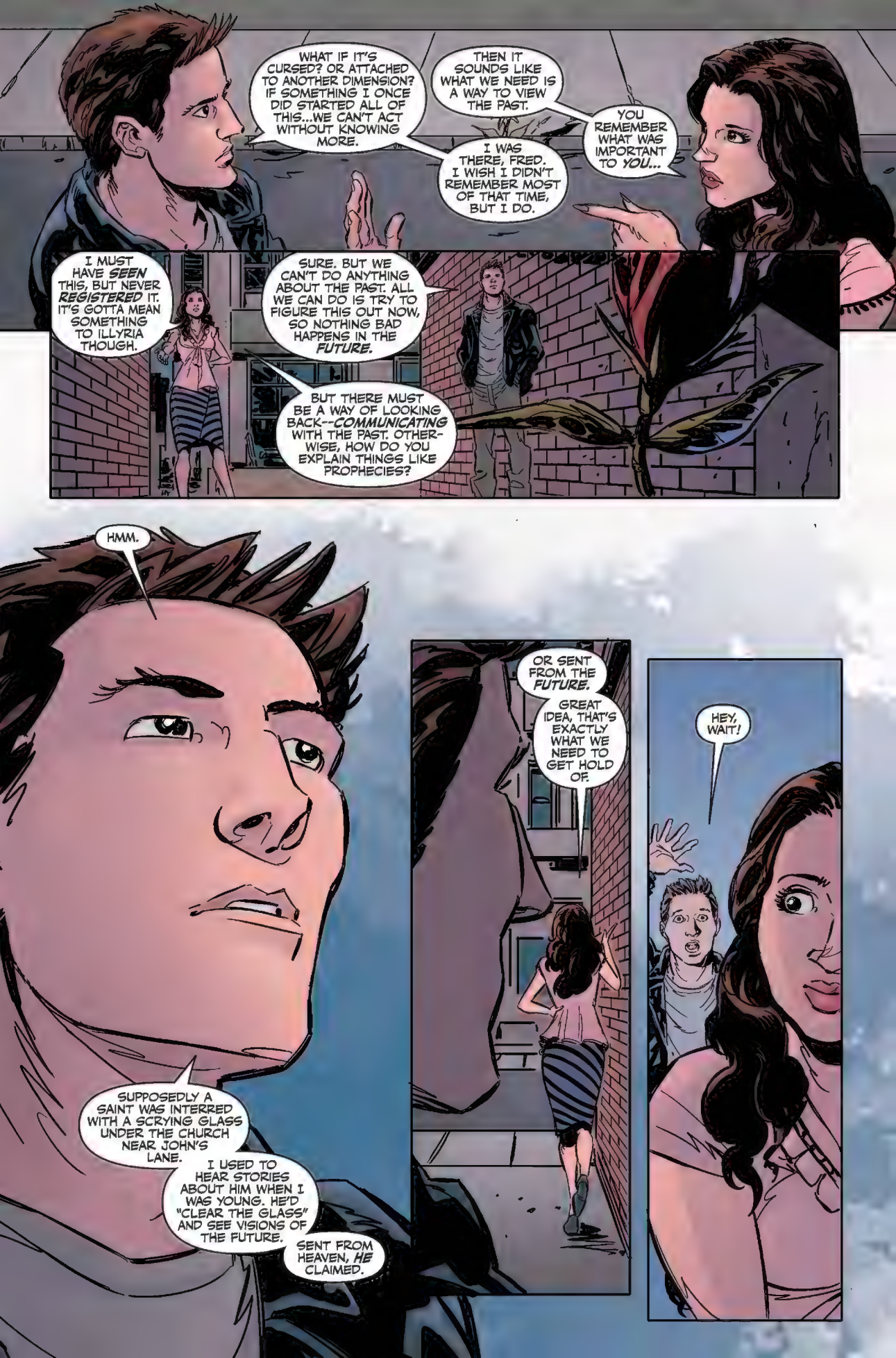
WHA--?
FRED?
ILLYRIA.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU AREN'T NEEDED. WE COULD HAVE DEALT WITH THIS.

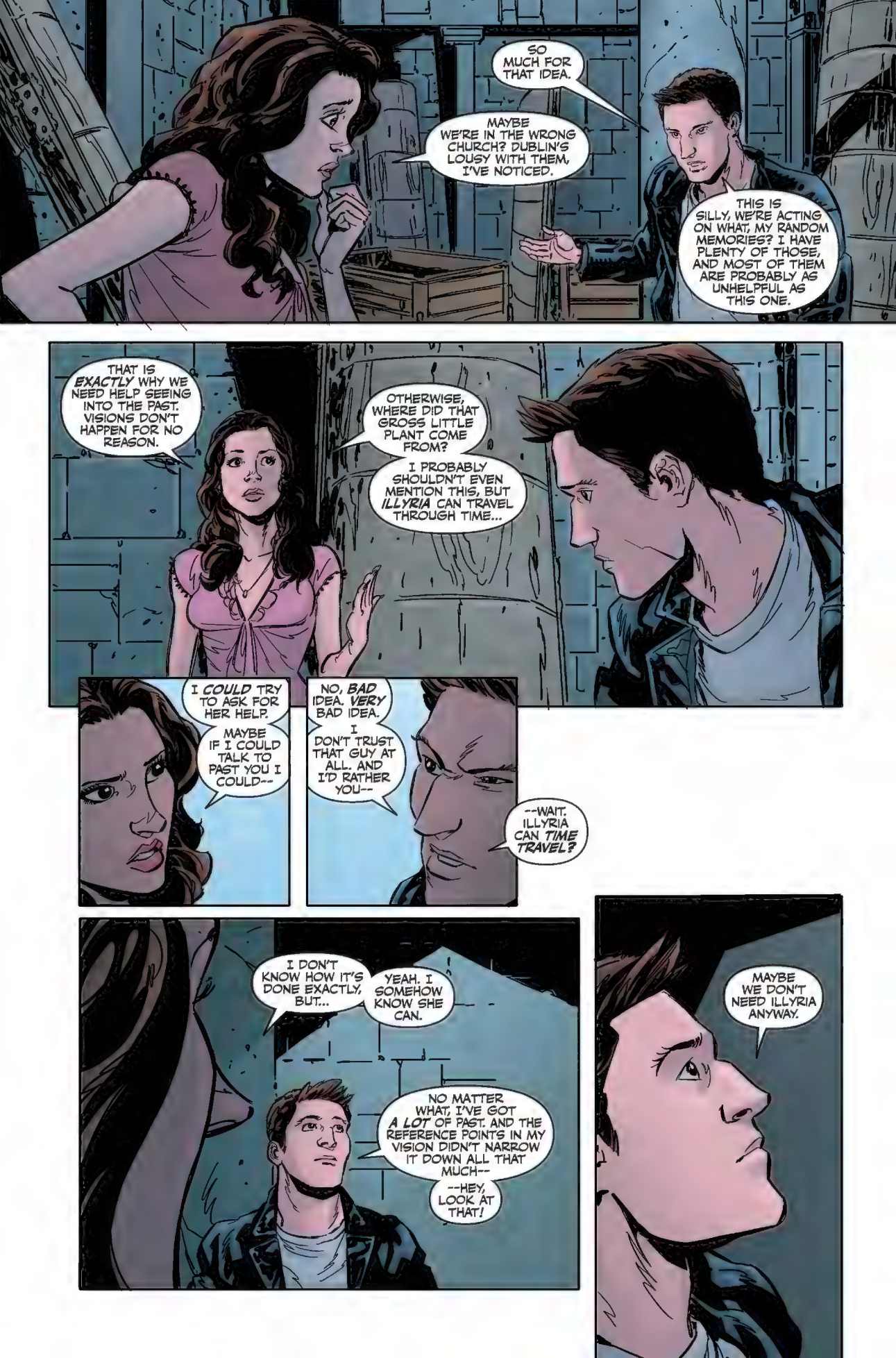
NO? ARE YOU NOW AN EXPERT ON WHAT LIES BEYOND?
IT WASN'T ANYTHING WE COULDN'T HANDLE. JUST SOME POLTERGEISTS.
A FAVOR FOR A FRIEND, GETTING THEM OUT OF HIS HOTEL SO THE ELEVATORS WOULD WORK RIGHT AGAIN.

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW?
OF COURSE. I KNOW MANY THINGS YOU COULD NOT FATHOM.
BUT ABOUT THIS, I ONLY KNOW WHAT YOU DO NOT FULLY ACCEPT.
SOMETHING IS COMING, AND YOU ARE THE NEXUS AROUND WHICH IT SWIRLS. HOW, WHEN...THOSE ARE MYSTERIES, AS TIME ALWAYS IS.
THEN IT DOES HAVE TO DO WITH YOU. FRED WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
I HEARD WHAT WAS SAID. BUT YOU ARE WRONG.
IT IS SOMETHING YOU DID, LONG AGO, THAT IS CAUSING THIS. ONLY YOU CAN MAKE IT RIGHT. IT IS NOT OF MY MAKING.
BUT EVEN IF I WERE AT FAULT, I AM NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
YOU CANNOT BELIEVE YOU COULD ENGINEER SUCH A THING.
NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. I DON'T HAVE ANY QUARREL WITH YOU.
I MEAN, ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT YOU JUST MESSED UP MY EXORCISM.
THOSE ENTITIES WERE ESCAPING SOMETHING MUCH WORSE THAN THEMSELVES.
THEY WERE DESPERATE, PATHETIC. I DID THEM--AND YOU--A FAVOR.
THEY CONCERN YOU BECAUSE THEY ARE LOUD AND UNCOUTH, BUT WHAT YOU SHOULD BE WONDERING ABOUT IS...


...THIS.
DON'T DO THAT WITHOUT WARNING ME FIRST!
DO YOU NOT REMEMBER HOW IT WAS WHEN YOU WERE ENVELOPED BY THE ESSENCE OF TWILIGHT, HOW IT FELT TO MOVE AT WILL THROUGH A WORLD? AND YOU WISH ME TO CURTAIL THAT FOR YOUR COMFORT?
ALTHOUGH I ADMIT I DID ALLOW EXPEDIENCY TO TRUMP WHAT FRED WOULD CALL SOCIAL GRACES.
I DON'T LIKE THIS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
NO IDEA.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE.
YOU CONVINCED ILLYRIA TO LEAVE?
I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE SHOWED UP! WE WERE OKAY. SHE WASN'T IN ANY DANGER.
APPARENTLY SHE WAS EAVESDROPPING. SHE ACTUALLY SEEMED CONCERNED BY WHAT WAS IN THE VISION. AND SHE SHOWED ME THIS.
NASTY LITTLE THING.
I MUST HAVE WALKED BY HERE TEN TIMES TODAY. NEVER NOTICED IT.
APPARENTLY ILLYRIA DID. MAYBE SHE'S MORE AWARE OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING THAN YOU THINK.
WELL, THIS IS EASY. WE KILL IT NOW BEFORE IT GETS BIGGER.
WAIT! WHAT IF KILLING IT IS WHAT STARTS EVERYTHING?


WHAT IF IT'S CURSED? OR ATTACHED TO ANOTHER DIMENSION? IF SOMETHING I ONCE DID STARTED ALL OF THIS...WE CAN'T ACT WITHOUT KNOWING MORE.
THEN IT SOUNDS LIKE WHAT WE NEED IS A WAY TO VIEW THE PAST.
I WAS THERE, FRED. I WISH I DIDN'T REMEMBER MOST OF THAT TIME, BUT I DO.
YOU REMEMBER WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO *YOU*...
I MUST HAVE *SEEN* THIS, BUT NEVER *REGISTERED* IT. IT'S GOTTA MEAN SOMETHING TO ILLYRIA THOUGH.
SURE. BUT WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE PAST. ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY TO FIGURE THIS OUT NOW, SO NOTHING BAD HAPPENS IN THE *FUTURE*.
BUT THERE MUST BE A WAY OF LOOKING BACK--*COMMUNICATING* WITH THE PAST. OTHERWISE, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THINGS LIKE PROPHECIES?
HMM.
SUPPOSEDLY A SAINT WAS INTERRED WITH A SCRYING GLASS UNDER THE CHURCH NEAR JOHN'S LANE.
I USED TO HEAR STORIES ABOUT HIM WHEN I WAS YOUNG. HE'D "CLEAR THE GLASS" AND SEE VISIONS OF THE FUTURE.
SENT FROM HEAVEN, *HE* CLAIMED.
OR SENT FROM THE *FUTURE*.
GREAT IDEA, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED TO GET HOLD OF.
HEY, WAIT!

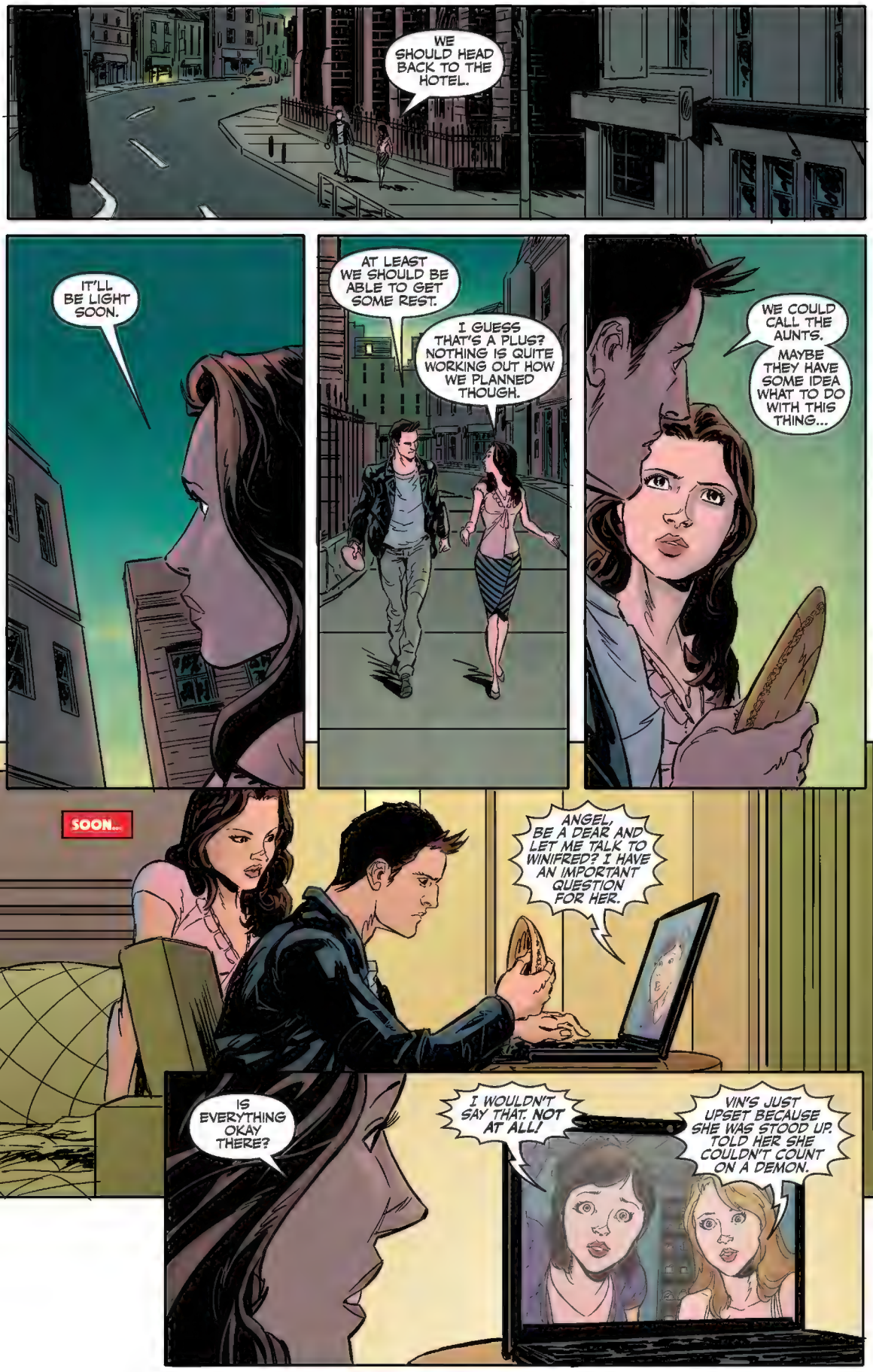
UM, HOW DO WE KNOW WHERE TO LOOK?
JOHN'S LANE CHURCH.
THIS IS PROBABLY A WASTE OF TIME, YOU KNOW.
ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
I LOOSENED IT FOR YOU.
TRY OUR LUCK ON THE NEXT ONE?
WE'VE GOT ALL NIGHT, RIGHT?


SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.
MAYBE WE'RE IN THE WRONG CHURCH? DUBLIN'S LOUSY WITH THEM, I'VE NOTICED.
THIS IS SILLY. WE'RE ACTING ON WHAT, MY RANDOM MEMORIES? I HAVE PLENTY OF THOSE, AND MOST OF THEM ARE PROBABLY AS UNHELPFUL AS THIS ONE.
THAT IS *EXACTLY* WHY WE NEED HELP SEEING INTO THE PAST. VISIONS DON'T HAPPEN FOR NO REASON.
OTHERWISE, WHERE DID THAT GROSS LITTLE PLANT COME FROM?
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T EVEN MENTION THIS, BUT *ILLYRIA* CAN TRAVEL THROUGH TIME...
I *COULD* TRY TO ASK FOR HER HELP.
MAYBE IF I COULD TALK TO PAST YOU I COULD--
NO, *BAD* IDEA. *VERY* BAD IDEA.
I DON'T TRUST THAT GUY AT ALL. AND I'D RATHER YOU--
--WAIT. ILLYRIA CAN *TIME TRAVEL?*
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S DONE EXACTLY, BUT...
YEAH. I SOMEHOW KNOW SHE CAN.
NO MATTER WHAT, I'VE GOT *A LOT* OF PAST. AND THE REFERENCE POINTS IN MY VISION DIDN'T NARROW IT DOWN ALL THAT MUCH--
--HEY, LOOK AT THAT!
MAYBE WE DON'T NEED ILLYRIA ANYWAY.

SEE THAT SPIDER?
SO? SPIDERS AREN'T INSECTS, THEY'RE ARACHNIDS. I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU ONLY SAW BUGS IN YOUR VISION.
I SUSPECT VISIONS MIGHT BE A BIT LESS PEDANTIC THAN THAT.
ANYWAY, I THINK THAT WAS JUST A NORMAL SPIDER. BUT I'M STILL CURIOUS ABOUT WHERE IT WENT.
ANGEL--A PIECE OF THE WALL JUST OPENED!
I HOPE THAT ISN'T THE ONE STONE THAT'S KEEPING THE REST OF THIS PLACE STANDING.
REALLY DARK IN THERE...

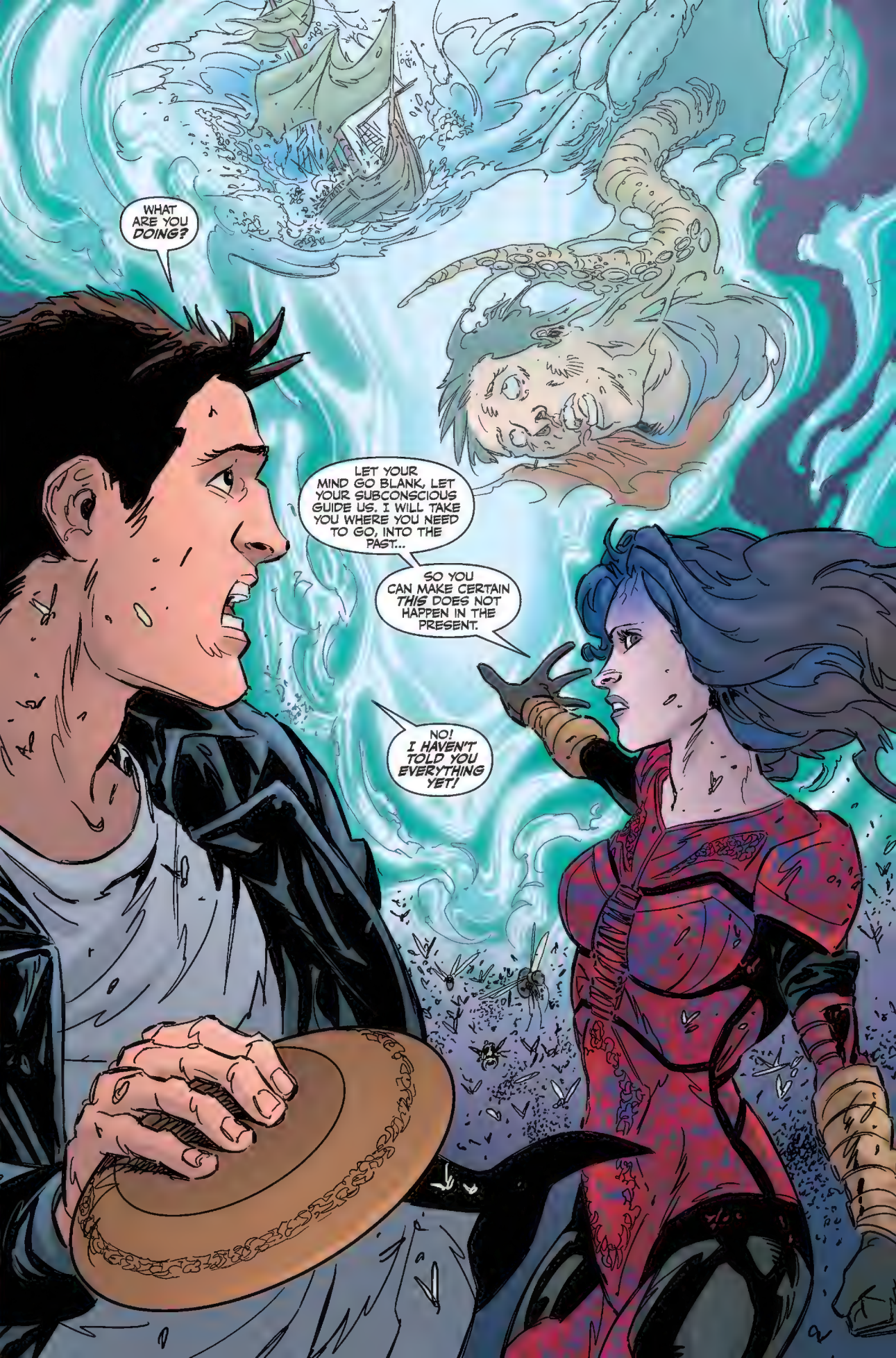
AND MORE THAN A LITTLE SPIDERY.
I DON'T THINK I CAN FIT THROUGH.
UNFORTUNATELY, I THINK I CAN.
SEE ANYTHING?
YES... EVEN MORE SPIDERS.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD COME BACK NOW. I DON'T--
OH! WAIT A MINUTE...
WHAT IS IT? DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?
FRED?
FRED!

HERE, HOLD THIS.
YOU FOUND IT?
I FOUND SOMETHING.
IT'S...
NOT QUITE WHAT I EXPECTED.
IN THAT CASE, YOU GO SPELUNKING NEXT TIME.
THIS WAS JUST SITTING IN THERE?
YEAH, IN A LITTLE ALCOVE. IT LOOKED LIKE A RELIQUARY. THERE WERE BONES BELOW IT, IN A BOX.
AND NOTHING ELSE?
LIKE WHAT?
WELL, DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A MIRROR TO YOU? I HAVE A DISADVANTAGE HERE.
IT HAD BETTER BE SOMETHING WORTHWHILE. WE CERTAINLY DESECRATED A LOT OF FINAL RESTING PLACES TO FIND IT!
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANY OF THEM COMPLAINED.


WE SHOULD HEAD BACK TO THE HOTEL.
IT'LL BE LIGHT SOON.
AT LEAST WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET SOME REST.
I GUESS THAT'S A PLUS? NOTHING IS QUITE WORKING OUT HOW WE PLANNED THOUGH.
WE COULD CALL THE AUNTS.
MAYBE THEY HAVE SOME IDEA WHAT TO DO WITH THIS THING...
SOON...
ANGEL, BE A DEAR AND LET ME TALK TO WINIFRED? I HAVE AN IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR HER.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY THERE?
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT. NOT AT ALL!
VIN'S JUST UPSET BECAUSE SHE WAS STOOD UP. TOLD HER SHE COULDN'T COUNT ON A DEMON.

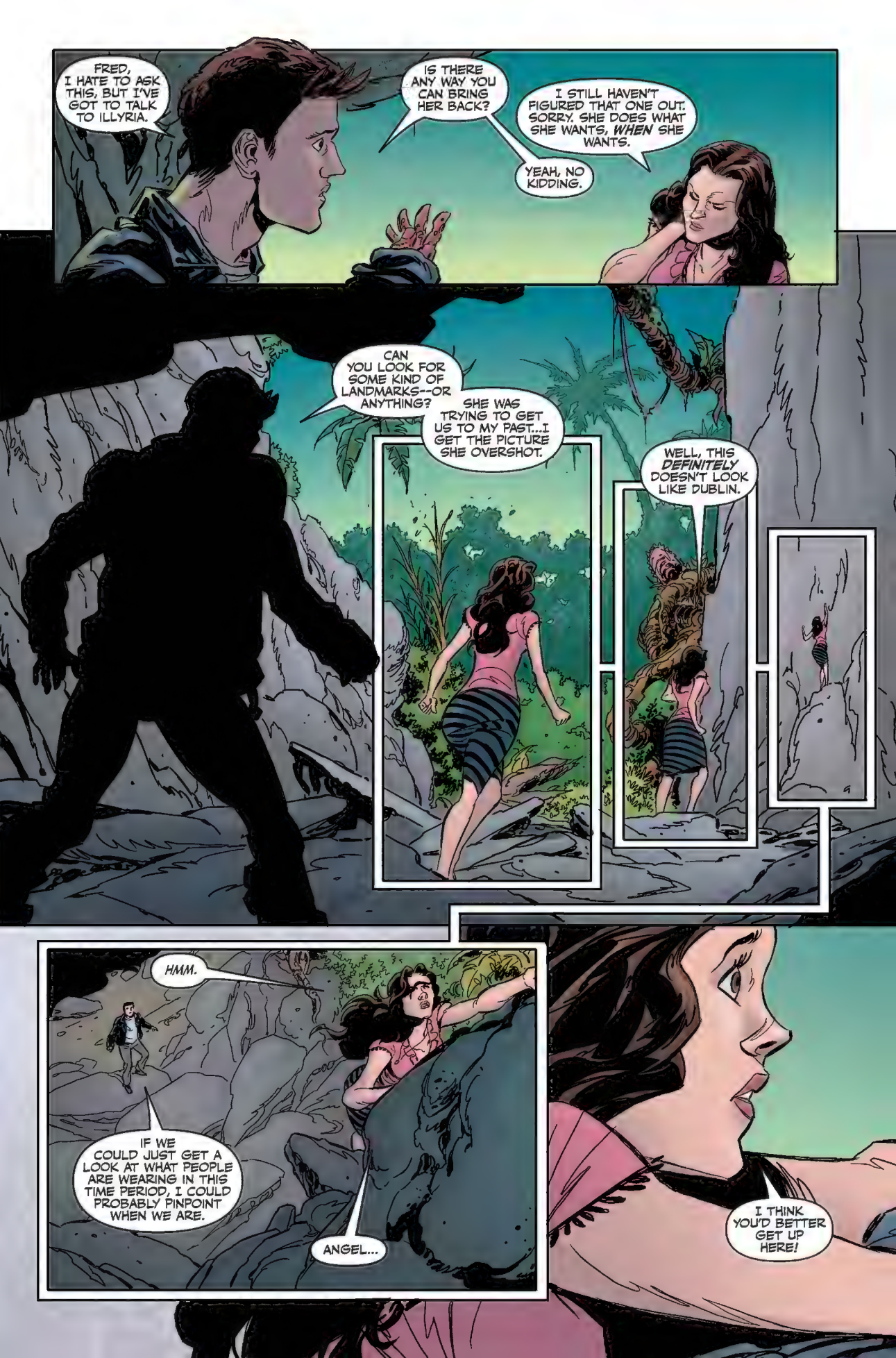
AND I BOUGHT THE MOST CHARMING DRESS TOO. NOW I HAVE NOWHERE TO--
COULD WE PLEASE GET BACK TO WHAT WE CALLED ABOUT?
RAP RAP RAP
HOLD ON, MUST BE MY FRIEND. WE FORGOT TO TELL HIM THE HAUNTING'S BEEN CLEARED.
I'LL GET IT. HE'S PROBABLY FIGURED IT OUT BY NOW AND WANTS TO SAY THANK YOU.
OH, THAT. FILL IT WITH WATER, SILLY.
IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO IGNORE US I'M GOING TO HANG UP.
OR CLOSE UP, OR WHATEVER YOU DO WITH THIS THING.
THAT'S WEIRD, I COULD HAVE SWORN SOMEONE KNOCKED...
RAP RAP RAP
UM...
CALL ENDED
CALL ENDED
I DON'T THINK ANYONE IS GOING TO BE THANKING US JUST YET...

I TOLD YOU THESE THINGS WERE DESPERATE.
I WAS NOT WRONG...
I SEE A BREACH FORMING, RIPPING THROUGH THE WALLS OF TWO WORLDS. THIS ONE AND *THE NEXT.*
THESE SMALL ENTITIES YOU CALLED POLTERGEISTS HAVE LIVED IN THE SPACE BETWEEN, AND NOW THEY TAKE THEIR CHANCE...
BECAUSE EVEN THEY ARE NOT SO STUPID AS TO STAND AGAINST WHAT WILL SOON BE ARRIVING.
IF YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, TELL ME AND I'LL DO IT. STOP PLAYING GAMES!
YOU ARE A FOOL IF YOU THINK THAT THIS TEAR IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE EASILY HEALED.
ALREADY PLANT LIFE HAS EMERGED, AND SMALL ANIMALS. YOU CAN GUESS WHAT IS NEXT...
THAT TRINKET YOU HOLD WILL *NOT* FIX THIS.


WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*
LET YOUR MIND GO BLANK, LET YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS GUIDE US. I WILL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO, INTO THE PAST...
SO YOU CAN MAKE CERTAIN *THIS* DOES NOT HAPPEN IN THE PRESENT.
NO! *I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU EVERYTHING YET!*

WHAT...
WHERE...
OUT OF THE PAST
PART TWO
WHERE ARE WE?
DON'T YOU MEAN...

...WHEN ARE WE?
AAAH!
OKAY. WHEN ARE WE, ILLYRIA?
AND PLEASE, THE NEXT TIME YOU YANK ME ACROSS DECADES WITHOUT MY PERMISSION...
...AT LEAST TRY TO AIM FOR THE EVENING AND NOT THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?
MY APOLOGIES, ANGEL. I WILL ENDEAVOR TO BE MORE ACCURATE NEXT TIME. ALTHOUGH IN FAIRNESS, THE SUN IS SINKING.
EVEN IF IT IS NOT WHERE I EXPECTED IT TO BE.
DECADES MIGHT BE THE WRONG UNIT FOR HOW LONG WE HAVE TRAVELED. I MAY HAVE MADE A...
...ROUNDING ERROR.
WAIT...
WHAT?


FRED, I HATE TO ASK THIS, BUT I'VE GOT TO TALK TO ILLYRIA.
IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN BRING HER BACK?
I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED THAT ONE OUT. SORRY. SHE DOES WHAT SHE WANTS, *WHEN* SHE WANTS.
YEAH, NO KIDDING.
CAN YOU LOOK FOR SOME KIND OF LANDMARKS--OR ANYTHING?
SHE WAS TRYING TO GET US TO MY PAST...I GET THE PICTURE SHE OVERSHOT.
WELL, THIS *DEFINITELY* DOESN'T LOOK LIKE DUBLIN.
HMM.
IF WE COULD JUST GET A LOOK AT WHAT PEOPLE ARE WEARING IN THIS TIME PERIOD, I COULD PROBABLY PINPOINT WHEN WE ARE.
ANGEL...
I THINK YOU'D BETTER GET UP HERE!

SEE ANYONE?
NOT EXACTLY...
WELL... AT LEAST THERE'S NO CHANCE WE'LL RUN INTO MY YOUNGER SELF HERE.
MAYBE ILLYRIA REALLY MESSED UP. THIS COULD BE ANOTHER DIMENSION, NOT ANOTHER TIME.
I DON'T KNOW. IT FEELS TO ME LIKE ILLYRIA KNOWS THIS PLACE WELL.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT MADE HER NOSTALGIC--
OH MY GOD...
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR PAST, ANGEL. THIS IS ILLYRIA'S PAST!
ARE YOU SURE?
BECAUSE IF SO, THIS IS NOT A GOOD PLACE TO BE. ILLYRIA WAS--
UM...

MOVE!

YOU WERE SAYING...

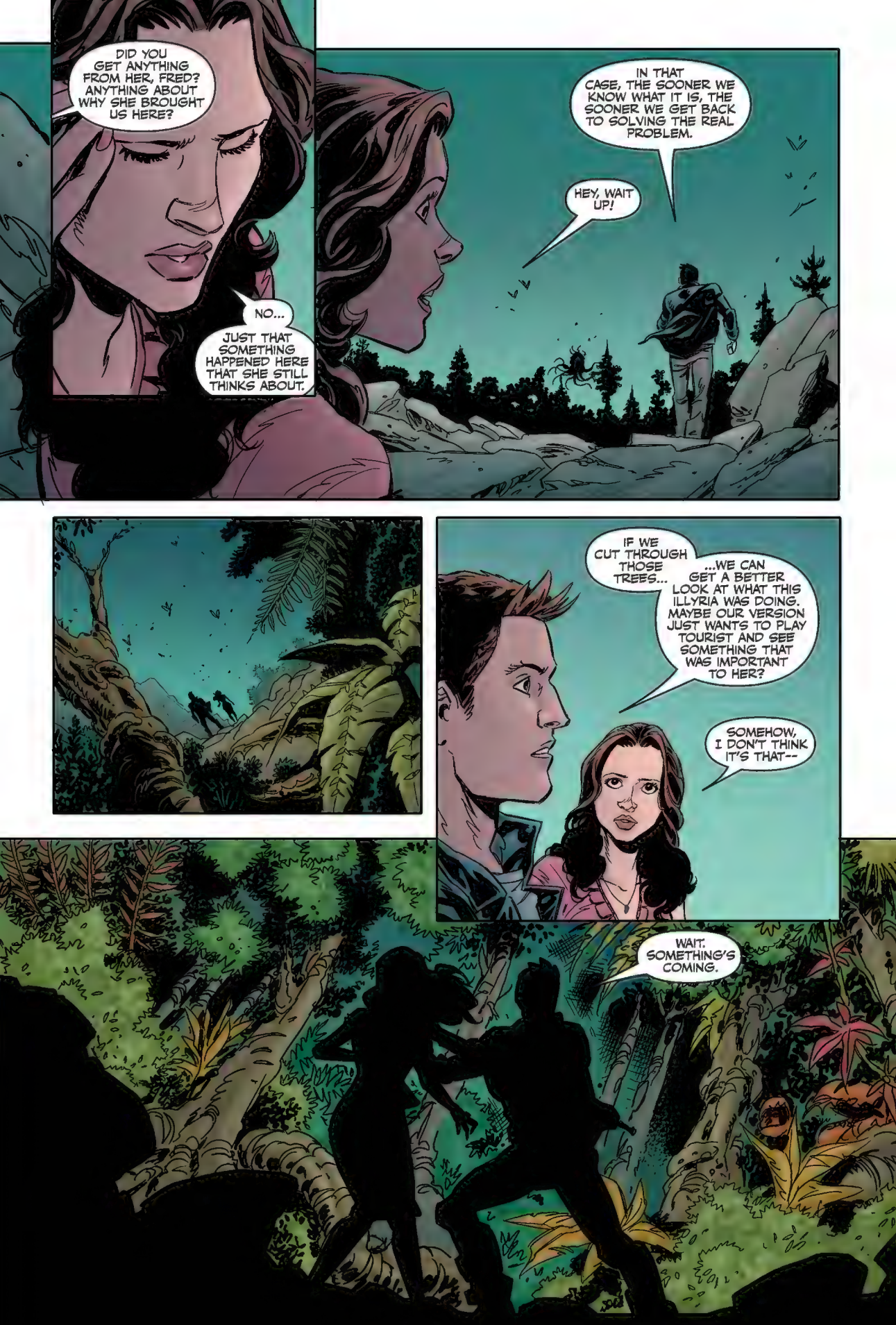
AT LEAST WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY BUGS...YET?
RIGHT. JUST DEMONS AND A HUGE MONSTER.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY ILLYRIA BROUGHT US *HERE*...AND *NOW*?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT THIS IS SOMEWHERE... SOME*WHEN* THAT STIRS UP STRONG FEELINGS FOR HER.
IF THIS IS HER PAST, THEN THIS IS HER *KINGDOM*, THE PLACE SHE RULED BEFORE SHE WAS LOCKED AWAY IN THE DEEPER WELL.

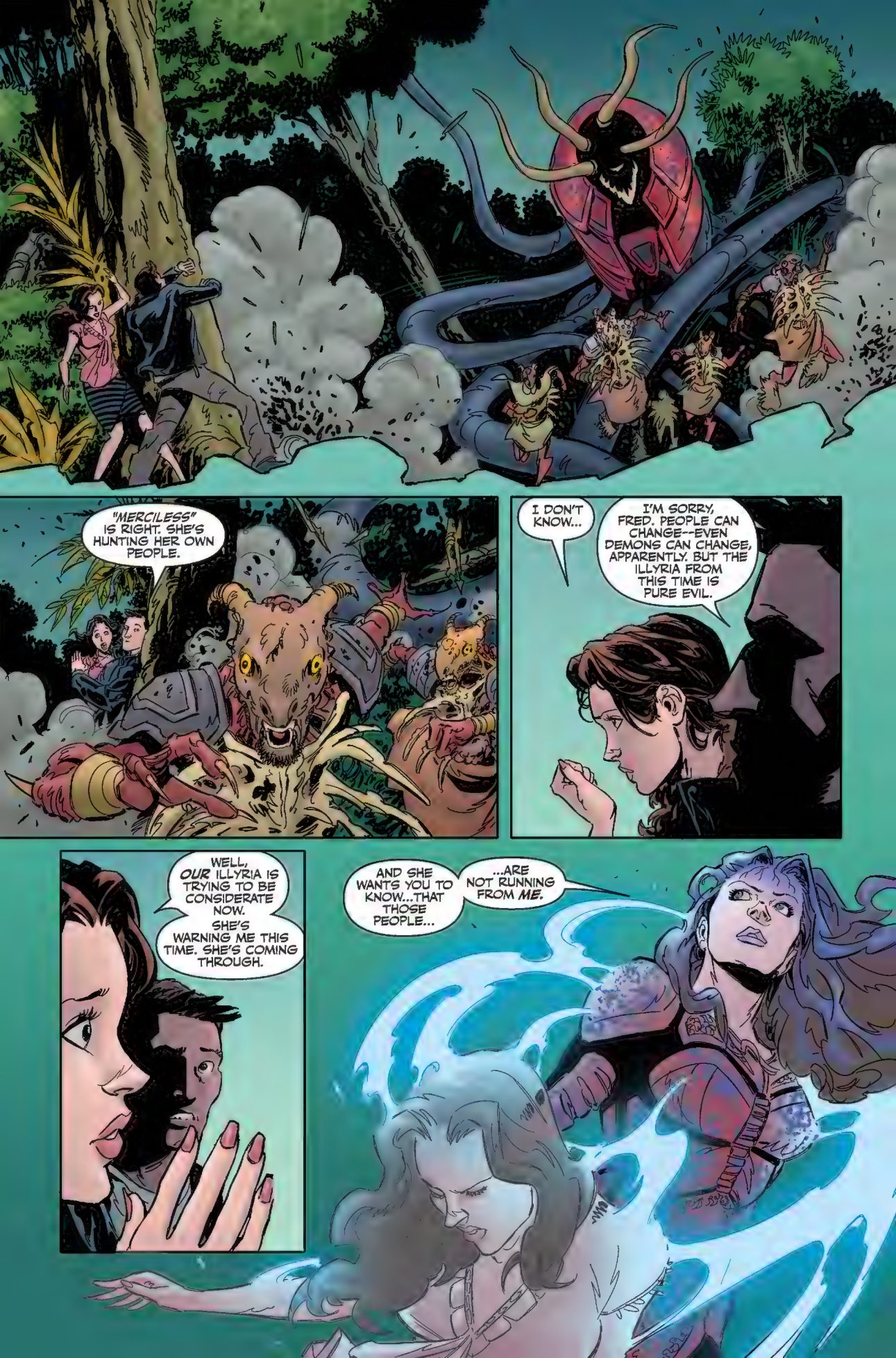
THEN WHERE IS SHE?
EXACTLY. MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING WE COULD DO TO MAKE HER SHOW HERSELF?
I DON'T MEAN THE *"SHE"* THAT'S IN ME. I MEAN THE *"SHE"* THAT'S *ALREADY* HERE.

WE SHOULD FIND SHELTER, SOMEWHERE WE CAN MAKE A PLAN WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT BEING...EATEN.
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST STAY PUT. THERE'S SOMETHING UP AHEAD THAT'S MAKING ME FEEL ANXIOUS.
EXCEPT I DON'T THINK IT'S REALLY *ME* THAT FEELS THAT WAY, YOU KNOW?
I THINK I DO...
AND I ALSO THINK I KNOW WHY *YOU* DO.
LOOK.
WHAT...
OH *NO*. IS THAT...?
YEAH, *THAT* WAS...
"I MEAN, THAT *IS*...
"...ILLYRIA.
"IN HER *TRUE* FORM."

YOU OKAY?
I...I GUESS I KNEW WHAT ILLYRIA WAS, BUT...
WOW.
I KNOW YOU COULD USE SOME TIME, FRED--BUT WE HAVE SO MUCH TO FIGURE OUT.
IF WHAT HAPPENS HERE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE FUTURE--MY "FUTURE" AS ANGELUS, OR WHAT MY INSECT-FILLED VISIONS WERE FORETELLING-- WE HAVE TO DO... SOMETHING...
...OR FIGURE OUT HOW TO LEAVE.
YEAH, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THE FUTURE IF WE STEP ON A BUG IN THE PAST.
UH. GOOD POINT?
IF *OUR* ILLYRIA WON'T HELP US, MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO GET THE OTHER ONE TO?
DON'T BE *FOOLISH.*
DO YOU THINK THEY CALLED ME MERCILESS IN *JEST?*
OH GOOD, YOU'RE BACK. IF YOU'RE DONE REMINISCING, COULD WE PLEASE GO HOME?
WAIT! ILLYRIA--
I'D LOVE IT IF SHE GAVE ME SOME WARNING BEFORE DOING THAT.


DID YOU GET ANYTHING FROM HER, FRED? ANYTHING ABOUT WHY SHE BROUGHT US HERE?
NO... JUST THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED HERE THAT SHE STILL THINKS ABOUT.
IN THAT CASE, THE SOONER WE KNOW WHAT IT IS, THE SOONER WE GET BACK TO SOLVING THE REAL PROBLEM.
HEY, WAIT UP!
IF WE CUT THROUGH THOSE TREES...
...WE CAN GET A BETTER LOOK AT WHAT THIS ILLYRIA WAS DOING. MAYBE OUR VERSION JUST WANTS TO PLAY TOURIST AND SEE SOMETHING THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO HER?
SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT--
WAIT. SOMETHING'S COMING.

RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
IT'S JUST A KID!
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
SO, IF THOSE ARE DEMONS, AND THEY'RE SCARED...
CRSH CRSH
CRSH


"MERCILESS" IS RIGHT. SHE'S HUNTING HER OWN PEOPLE.
I DON'T KNOW...
I'M SORRY, FRED. PEOPLE CAN CHANGE--EVEN DEMONS CAN CHANGE, APPARENTLY. BUT THE ILLYRIA FROM THIS TIME IS PURE EVIL.
WELL, *OUR* ILLYRIA IS TRYING TO BE CONSIDERATE NOW.
SHE'S WARNING ME THIS TIME. SHE'S COMING THROUGH.
AND SHE WANTS YOU TO KNOW...THAT THOSE PEOPLE...
...ARE NOT RUNNING FROM *ME.*

THEN WHAT ARE THEY RUNNING FROM?
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, SHOULD *WE* BE RUNNING TOO?
SEEKING SHELTER WOULD NOT BE A BAD IDEA. SOME OF THE DANGERS DURING THIS TIME ARE... STILL RAW.
IT'S TRUE, I DIDN'T *MEAN* TO BRING YOU HERE.
BUT THE EVENT THAT HAPPENS HERE IS ALWAYS ON MY MIND. WHEN I SOUGHT FOR YOU TO CONFRONT YOUR PAST...
I SUPPOSE I...*SLIPPED* AND THOUGHT OF *MYSELF* INSTEAD.
SO YOU HAVE A FEW REGRETS? THAT'S NOTHING NEW.
I'VE GOT PLENTY, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND *NEARLY* AS LONG AS YOU HAVE.
YES. BUT NOW I CAN *FIX* THIS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO FIXING THE *FUTURE?*
THE FUTURE CAN WAIT.
NOW YOU THINK THE FUTURE CAN WAIT? YOU AREN'T GOING TO TAKE US HOME UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN THIS THROUGH, ARE YOU?
FOR A VAMPIRE, YOU ARE QUITE PERCEPTIVE.
THEN MAYBE YOU'D BETTER TELL ME WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.

AS YOU'VE ALREADY GUESSED, THIS IS MY KINGDOM. IN THIS TIME THE OLDEST, STRONGEST DEMONS RULED.

UNLIKE SOME OF THE OLDEST ONES, I WAS LOVED AS WELL AS FEARED.

"I DID NOT LAY WASTE JUST TO SEE LAND BURN, OR SOW SALT AND TAR FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF WATCHING SMALL LIVES CURL INTO SMALL DEATHS.

"I USED MY PEOPLE AS I DID ANY RESOURCE. I SHEPHERDED THEM, I SLAUGHTERED THEM WHEN APPROPRIATE, AND I GUARDED THEM JEALOUSLY.

"UNTIL ONE DAY--*TODAY*--ANOTHER EMERGED. HE DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT I HELD.

"THIS...*MONSTROSITY* HAD THE NERVE TO FEAST ON MY PEOPLE!

"IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE VERY ACT OF TRYING WAS CAUSING AS MUCH DESTRUCTION AS THE INTERLOPER HAD ON HIS OWN.

"AND *THAT* IS WHEN I BECAME ANGRY.

"HE DID NOT EVEN CARE TO SAVE THE JUICIEST FOR LAST, OR RESPECT THOSE THAT HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN MARKED AS SACRIFICES INTENDED FOR ME LATER IN THE YEAR.

"I FOUGHT HIM, OF COURSE, BUT HE WAS STRONG. AND HE BECAME STRONGER WITH EACH SUBJECT HE CONSUMED.

"WE WERE EVENLY MATCHED, AND I COULD NOT FORCE HIM FROM MY HOME.

"THIS WENT ON FOR MORE THAN A DAY AND A NIGHT.

"I WAS QUITE POWERFUL. THE LAND ITSELF ANSWERED TO MY WHIMS.

"AND I WOULD RATHER HAVE SEEN IT BURN THAN ALLOW IT TO FALL TO ANOTHER.

"AND SO I *DID*."

YOU... KILLED THE OTHER DEMON?
YES.
AND... *ALL* OF THIS? EVERYONE WHO LIVES HERE? *ALL OF THEM?*

NOW YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND. WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT, MY ACTION MAY HAVE BEEN--
--BUT LOOK, IT APPROACHES.

BUT IT DOES NOT YET SUSPECT THAT *THIS TIME* WILL BE DIFFERENT.
THIS TIME I WILL NOT HESITATE IN MY ATTACK, AND WILL PREVAIL BEFORE MY PAST SELF CAN DO FURTHER DAMAGE.

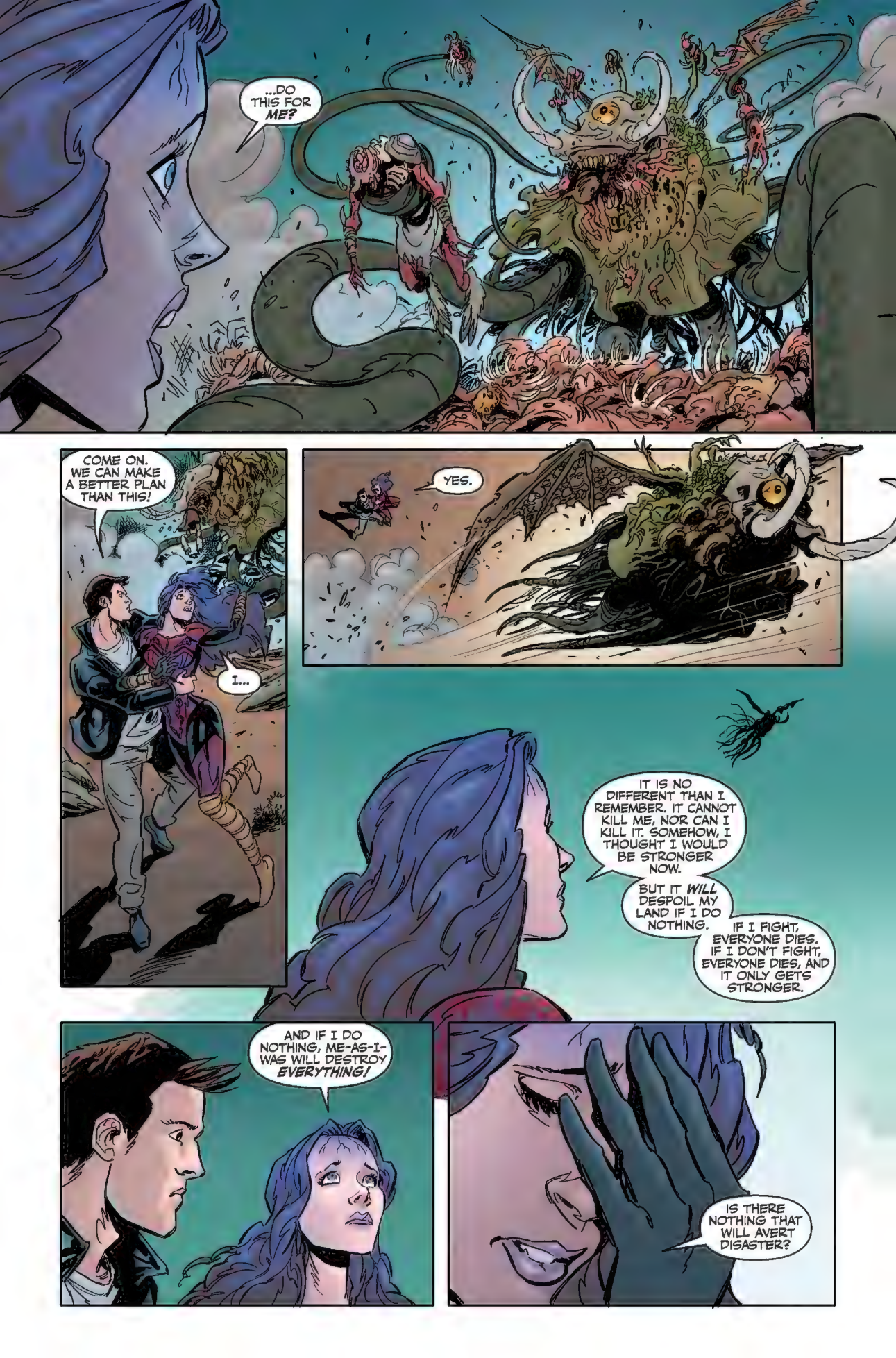
ILLYRIA, WAIT!

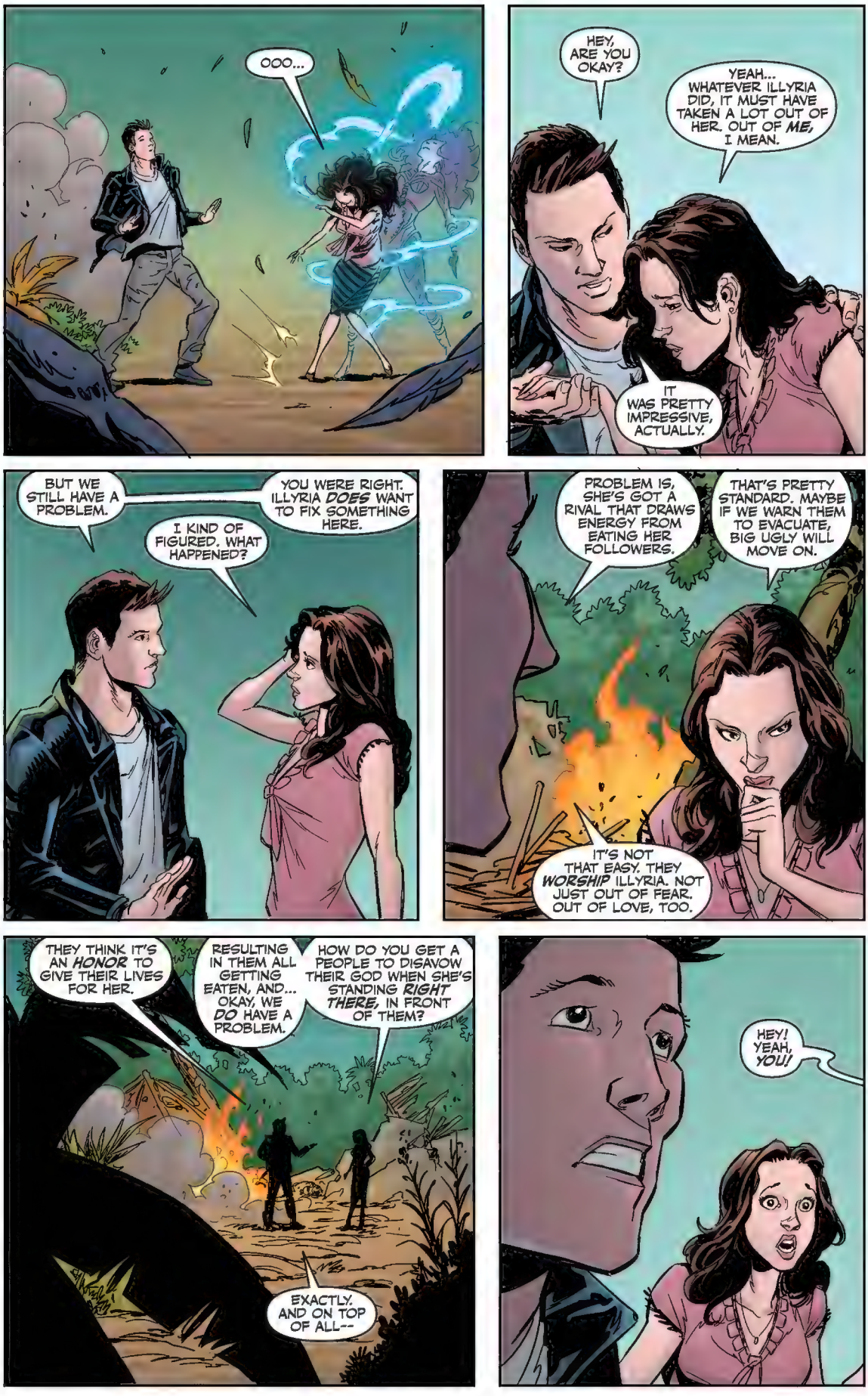
YOU CAN'T FIGHT THAT THING.
NOT IN THAT BODY, WITHOUT FRED'S CONSENT!

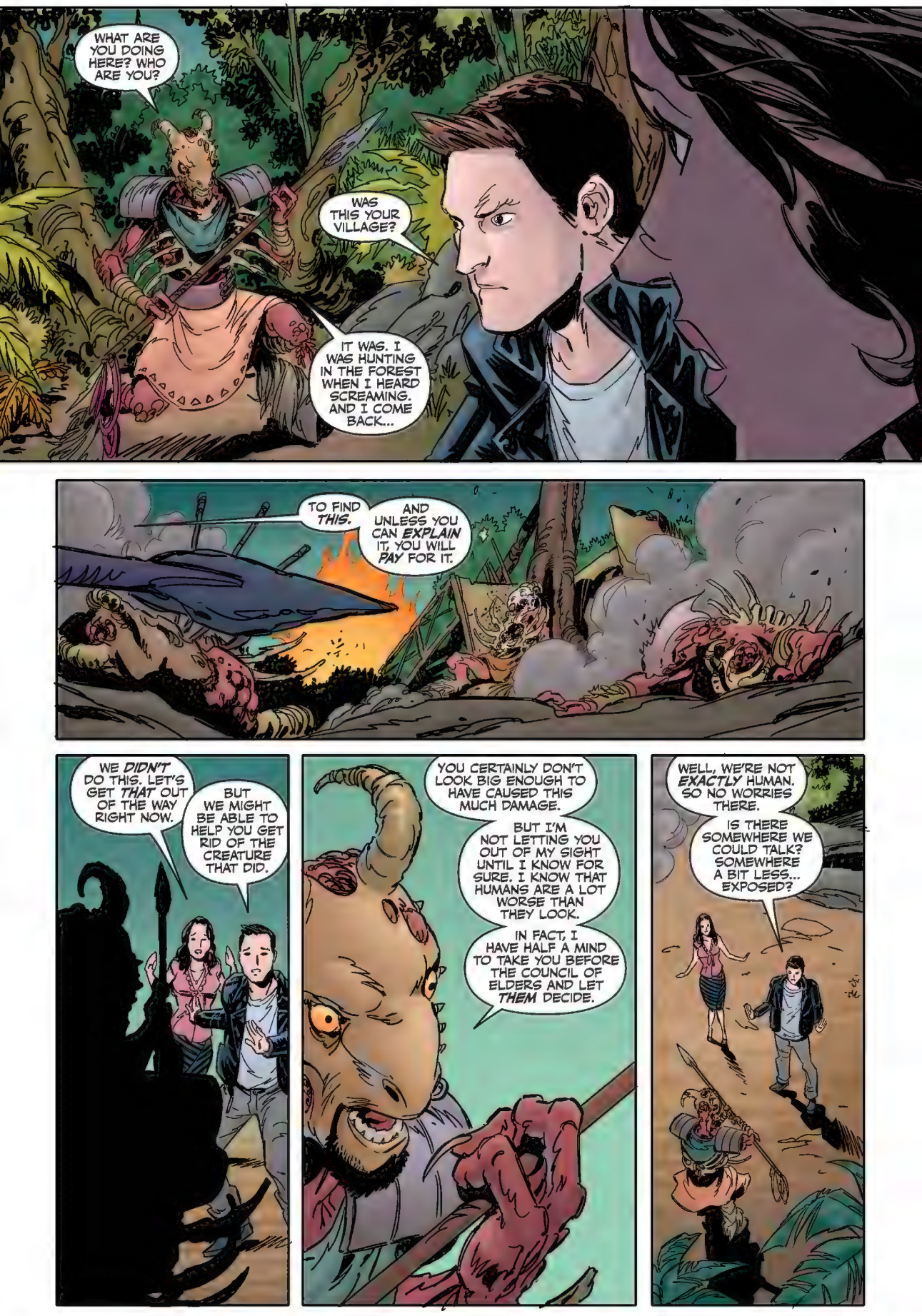
TRESPASSER...
YOU WILL REMOVE YOURSELF!
HRAAR!
HOLD ON!
GO ON, GET OUT OF HERE!
THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO...
...WHEN I LIVE TO DIE FOR ILLYRIA THE PRIMORDIAL!
WAIT!

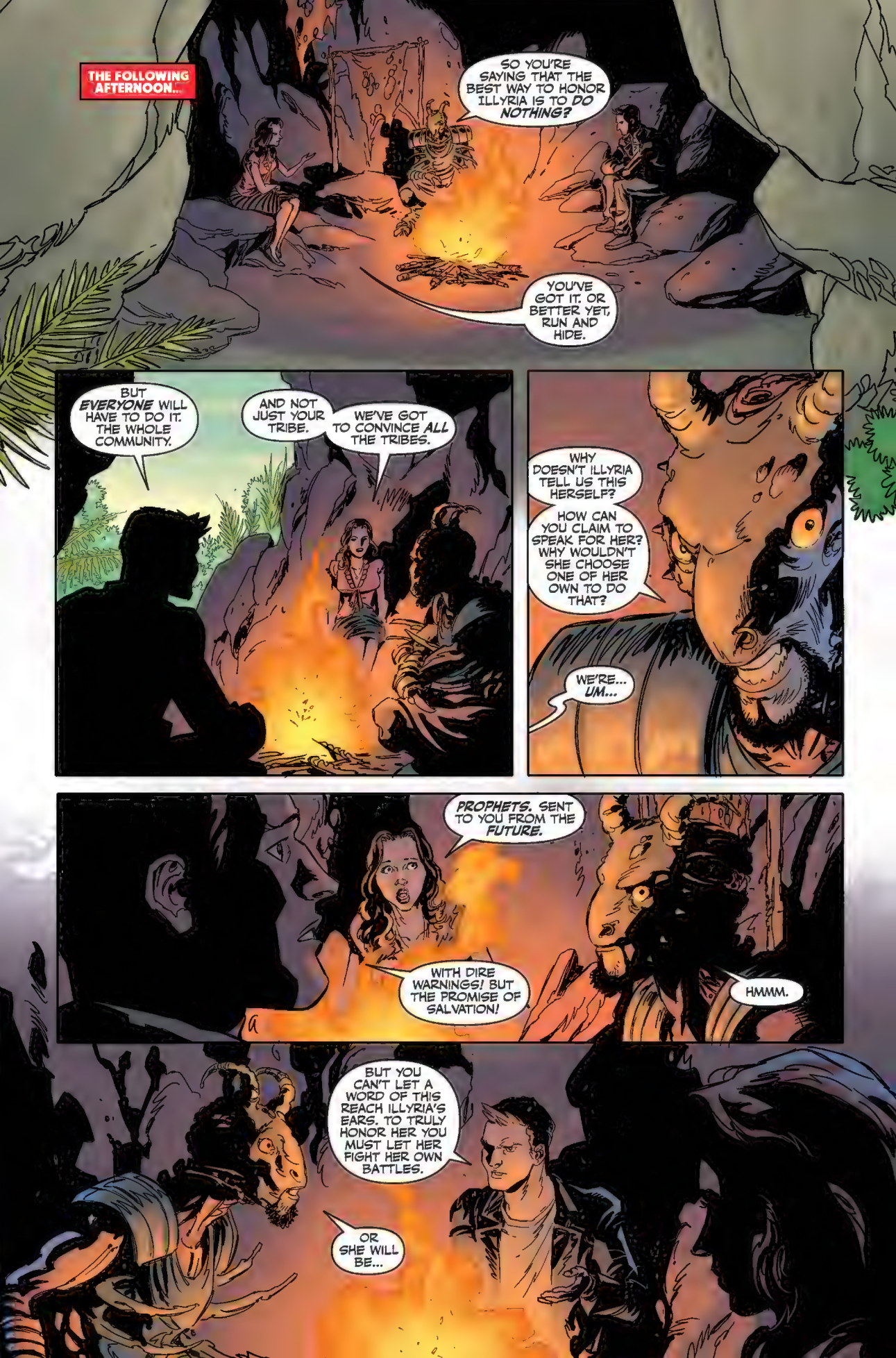
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I BOTHER.
NO! YOU'RE ALL JUST THROWING YOUR LIVES AWAY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS!
ILLYRIA DOESN'T WANT YOU TO SACRIFICE YOURSELVES FOR HER!
IT IS NO SACRIFICE TO LAY DOWN ONES LIFE IN HONOR OF ILLYRIA!
THIS BEAST BESMIRCHES HER LAND, BUT IT MUST GET THROUGH US BEFORE IT WILL TOUCH HER AGAIN!
IF ILLYRIA IS YOUR PROTECTOR, LET HER DEAL WITH THIS. OTHERWISE, WHY OFFER HER YOUR ALLEGIANCE?
TAKE YOUR FAMILY AND GET AS FAR FROM HERE AS YOU CAN!
MY LIFE IS ILLYRIA'S.
LOOK, THAT BLUE CREATURE ALREADY FIGHTS FOR ILLYRIA. WE WILL JOIN THE BATTLE TOO!

ILLYRIA! YOU HAVE TO STOP!
YOU'RE NOT HELPING! YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE!
IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO FIGHT--
BAM
--STAY OUT OF THE WAY.
OOF!
JUST LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING!
THEY'RE KILLING THEMSELVES. WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM TO STOP!
THEY'RE TRYING TO...

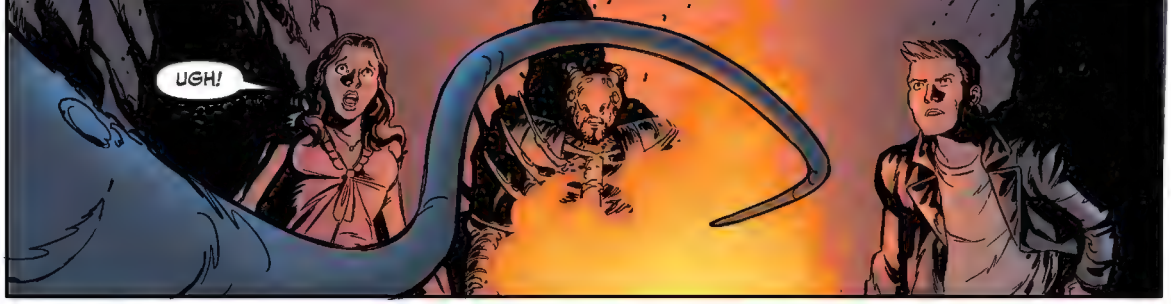

...DO THIS FOR ME?
COME ON. WE CAN MAKE A BETTER PLAN THAN THIS!
I...
YES.
IT IS NO DIFFERENT THAN I REMEMBER. IT CANNOT KILL ME, NOR CAN I KILL IT. SOMEHOW, I THOUGHT I WOULD BE STRONGER NOW.
BUT IT WILL DESPOIL MY LAND IF I DO NOTHING.
IF I FIGHT, EVERYONE DIES. IF I DON'T FIGHT, EVERYONE DIES, AND IT ONLY GETS STRONGER.
AND IF I DO NOTHING, ME-AS-I-WAS WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING!
IS THERE NOTHING THAT WILL AVERT DISASTER?

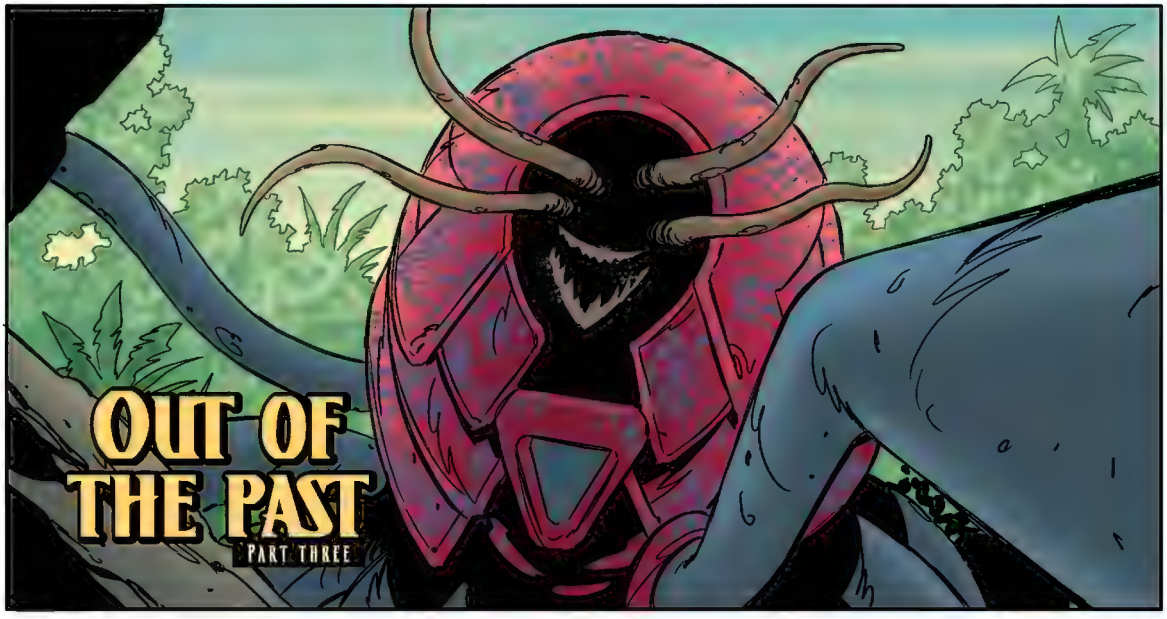

OOO...
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH... WHATEVER ILLYRIA DID, IT MUST HAVE TAKEN A LOT OUT OF HER. OUT OF ME, I MEAN.
IT WAS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, ACTUALLY.
BUT WE STILL HAVE A PROBLEM.
YOU WERE RIGHT. ILLYRIA DOES WANT TO FIX SOMETHING HERE.
I KIND OF FIGURED. WHAT HAPPENED?
PROBLEM IS, SHE'S GOT A RIVAL THAT DRAWS ENERGY FROM EATING HER FOLLOWERS.
THAT'S PRETTY STANDARD. MAYBE IF WE WARN THEM TO EVACUATE, BIG UGLY WILL MOVE ON.
IT'S NOT THAT EASY. THEY WORSHIP ILLYRIA. NOT JUST OUT OF FEAR. OUT OF LOVE, TOO.
THEY THINK IT'S AN HONOR TO GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR HER.
RESULTING IN THEM ALL GETTING EATEN, AND... OKAY, WE DO HAVE A PROBLEM.
HOW DO YOU GET A PEOPLE TO DISAVOW THEIR GOD WHEN SHE'S STANDING RIGHT THERE, IN FRONT OF THEM?
EXACTLY. AND ON TOP OF ALL--
HEY! YEAH, YOU!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHO ARE YOU?
WAS THIS YOUR VILLAGE?
IT WAS. I WAS HUNTING IN THE FOREST WHEN I HEARD SCREAMING. AND I COME BACK...
TO FIND *THIS*.
AND UNLESS YOU CAN *EXPLAIN* IT, YOU WILL *PAY* FOR IT.
WE *DIDN'T* DO THIS. LET'S GET *THAT* OUT OF THE WAY RIGHT NOW.
BUT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU GET RID OF THE CREATURE THAT DID.
YOU CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK BIG ENOUGH TO HAVE CAUSED THIS MUCH DAMAGE.
BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE. I KNOW THAT HUMANS ARE A LOT WORSE THAN THEY LOOK.
IN FACT, I HAVE HALF A MIND TO TAKE YOU BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS AND LET *THEM* DECIDE.
WELL, WE'RE NOT *EXACTLY* HUMAN. SO NO WORRIES THERE.
IS THERE SOMEWHERE WE COULD TALK? SOMEWHERE A BIT LESS... EXPOSED?


THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON...
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE BEST WAY TO HONOR ILLYRIA IS TO *DO NOTHING?*
YOU'VE GOT IT. OR BETTER YET, RUN AND HIDE.
BUT *EVERYONE* WILL HAVE TO DO IT. THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.
AND NOT JUST YOUR TRIBE.
WE'VE GOT TO CONVINCE *ALL* THE TRIBES.
WHY DOESN'T ILLYRIA TELL US THIS HERSELF?
HOW CAN YOU CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR HER? WHY WOULDN'T SHE CHOOSE ONE OF HER OWN TO DO THAT?
WE'RE... *UM...*
PROPHETS. SENT TO YOU FROM THE *FUTURE.*
WITH DIRE WARNINGS! BUT THE PROMISE OF SALVATION!
HMMM.
BUT YOU CAN'T LET A WORD OF THIS REACH ILLYRIA'S EARS. TO TRULY HONOR HER YOU MUST LET HER FIGHT HER OWN BATTLES.
OR SHE WILL BE...

...VERY ANGRY??
I ALREADY HATE BEING A PROPHET.

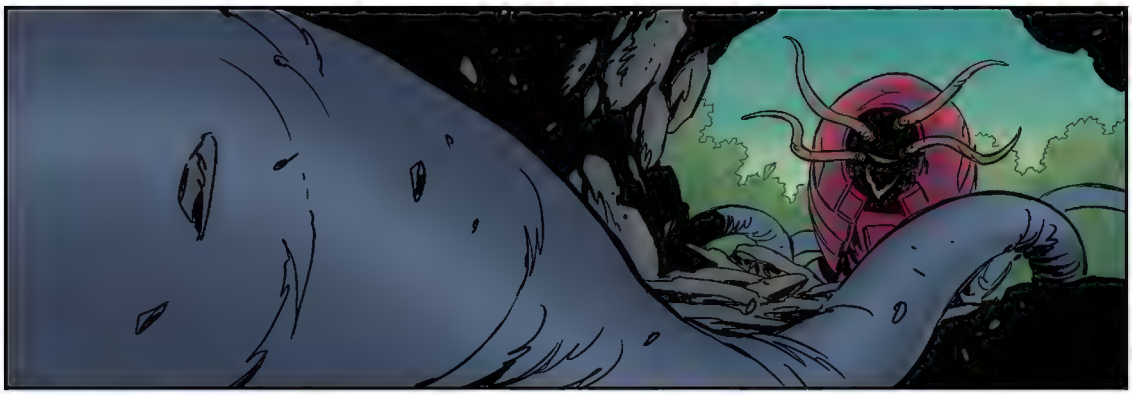

UGH!


OUT OF THE PAST
PART THREE

SWAL! COME ON!

GREAT ILLYRIA... PLEASE FORGIVE YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.
MAYBE IF WE JUST SHOW HER SOME RESPECT SHE'LL LISTEN TO REASON?

OR MAYBE NOT...
WHAM
WE'VE GOT TO--
NOT YET.
FRED, HOLD AS STILL AS YOU CAN...

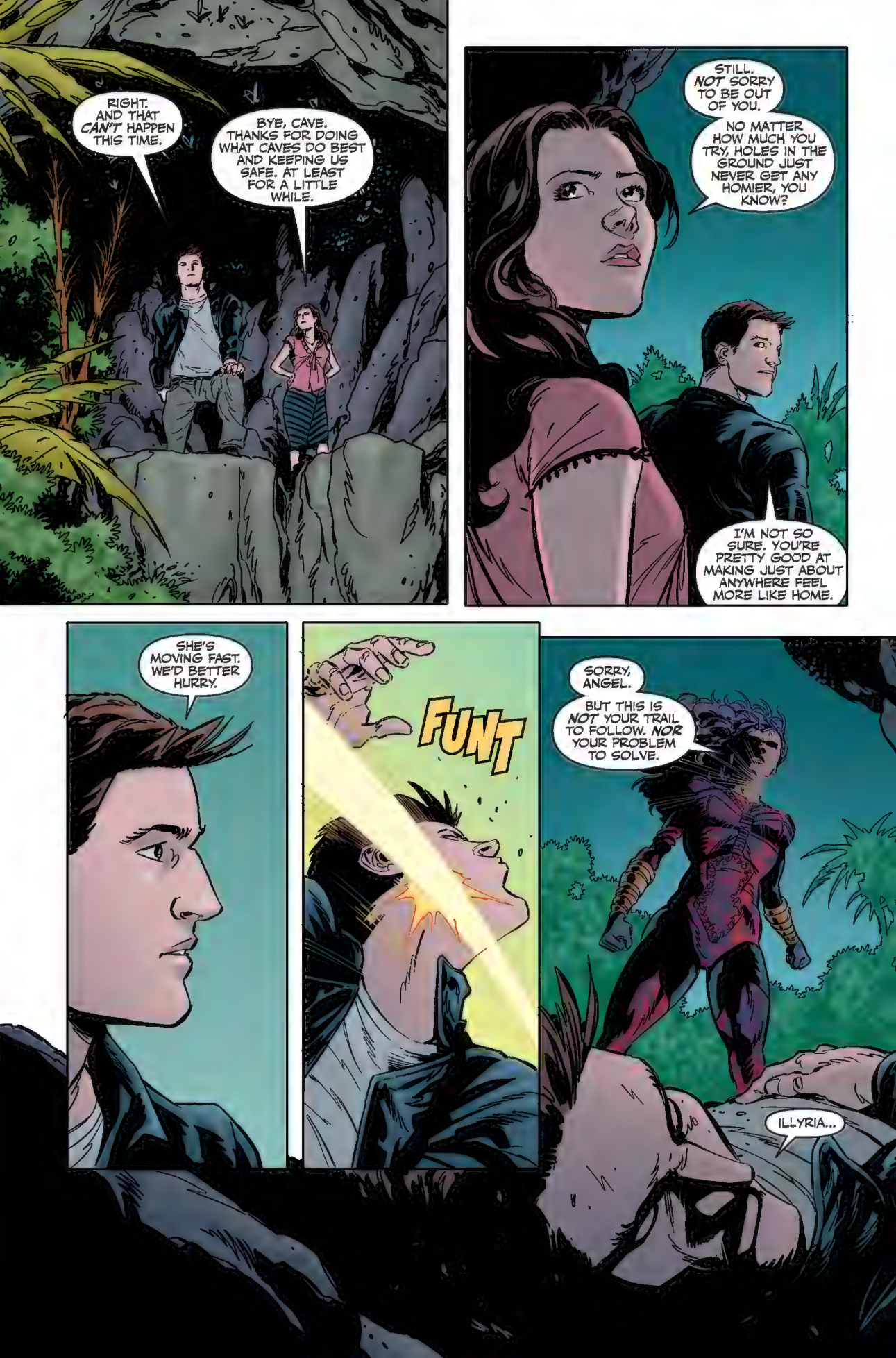


NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH YOURSELF, ILLYRIA...

SQUEE-REE

LOOK. SHE'S GOING.
SQUEE-REE

SHE DIDN'T EVEN THINK TWICE! SHE JUST *SMASHED* HIM.
WELL SHE *IS* A DEMONIC ENTITY WHO HOLDS DOMINION OVER EVERYTHING SHE SURVEYS. AT LEAST, SHE IS IN THIS TIME PERIOD.
SHE COULD STILL TRY TO BE A BIT NICER.
UUU...
HE'S ALIVE!
SHE GOES...
SHE GOES TO ATTEND THE CALLING...
WHAT'S THAT, SWAL?
I THINK WE'VE LOST HIM.
WHAT DID HE MEAN?
THAT NOISE SOUNDED LIKE A WAR HORN...
SO, A CALL TO ARMS. A GATHERING OF TROOPS.
ALL THE DEMONS IN ONE PLACE WITH ONE GOAL--TO KILL ILLYRIA'S RIVAL.
OR CREATE ONE BIG SMORGASBORD FOR HIM!


RIGHT. AND THAT CAN'T HAPPEN THIS TIME.
BYE, CAVE. THANKS FOR DOING WHAT CAVES DO BEST AND KEEPING US SAFE. AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
STILL. NOT SORRY TO BE OUT OF YOU.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY, HOLES IN THE GROUND JUST NEVER GET ANY HOMIER, YOU KNOW?
I'M NOT SO SURE. YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT MAKING JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE FEEL MORE LIKE HOME.
SHE'S MOVING FAST. WE'D BETTER HURRY.
FUNT
SORRY, ANGEL.
BUT THIS IS NOT YOUR TRAIL TO FOLLOW. NOR YOUR PROBLEM TO SOLVE.
ILLYRIA...

DAMN, SHE'S *QUICK* WHEN SHE WANTS TO BE.
OUT OF THE WAY!
UNLESS YOU WILL JOIN US? TRIBAL DIFFERENCES ARE AS NOTHING BEFORE A CALLING.
YOU DO REALIZE THAT IF YOU'RE EATEN, THE THING YOU'RE FIGHTING JUST GETS STRONGER, RIGHT?
THEN WE WILL PRAY THAT *ILLYRIA* CONSUMES US, SO THAT WE MAY LEND STRENGTH TO HER SUPPLE ARMS INSTEAD.
?
GO ON.

YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF THIS.
DIE HERE, OR DIE THERE. CHOICE IS YOURS.
ALL RIGHT, YES! WE'RE GOING!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURT ANYONE!
WHERE EXACTLY ARE YOU TAKING THESE PEOPLE?
WHO ARE YOU?
PROBABLY THE LAST PERSON YOU'LL EVER SEE.

UFF!
GAH!
I HOPE I DIDN'T MISREAD THE SITUATION?

NOT AT ALL.
BUT... WHAT IS IT *YOU* WANT OUT OF US?
HONESTLY?
I WAS GOING TO TRY TO CONVINCE YOU TO *NOT* ANSWER THAT CALL TO ARMS. PRETTY MUCH THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THESE GUYS WANTED.
OKAY.
FINALLY, SOMEONE LISTENS TO ME!
YOU'VE MADE A GOOD DECISION. REALLY.
WE'RE PACIFISTS! SO *OF COURSE* WE WEREN'T GOING TO FIGHT.
I SEE.
WE DON'T WHOLLY ENDORSE YOUR METHODS, BUT WE DO APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DID FOR US.
BUT *ILLYRIA* ISN'T GOING TO LIKE IT. SO MAYBE YOU'D BETTER COME WITH US.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
SOMEWHERE ILLYRIA CAN'T FIND US.
IF YOUR CLAN IS TRULY COMMITTED TO NON-VIOLENCE, MAYBE YOU COULD HELP CONVINCE OTHERS. THAT'S WHAT I'M--
NO.
JUST NO?
WE TRIED TO RID OUR LAND OF VIOLENCE. IT DIDN'T WORK.
YOU COULD SAY IT HAD THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DOING SOME CONJURING IN YOUR SPARE TIME.
MORE LIKE *LURING.*
THAT CREATURE?
THE THING EATING ALL YOUR WARRIORS...YOU *ASKED* FOR THAT?
WE...WE THOUGHT...
WE *CONVINCED OURSELVES* THAT IT WOULD SET US FREE.
THE IDEA WAS THAT IF WE DREW ONE OF ILLYRIA'S RIVALS TO OUR LAND, SHE WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT IT.
AND THAT, BEING EQUALLY MATCHED, THEY WOULD KILL EACH OTHER.
AND AFTERWARDS, WE WOULD HAVE NO MASTER TO SERVE, NO MERCILESS GOD TO APPEASE.

TURNS OUT IT WASN'T THE BEST PLAN.
YOUR RACE SEEMS TO HAVE A GIFT FOR UNDERSTATEMENT.
BUT YOU STILL WON'T HELP ME MAKE IT RIGHT? WHY *NOT?*
WE TRIED LOTS OF THINGS TO GET HIM TO GO AWAY AGAIN.
EVERYTHING WE DO JUST MAKES THINGS *WORSE*. SO WE'VE TAKEN A VOTE AND DECIDED TO DO *NOTHING*.
BESIDES, I THINK THE LAST TIME WE TRIED TO FIX THINGS WE JUST CALLED SOMETHING NEW UP.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ILLYRIA'S GOT TWO RIVALS NOW. LOOK. YOU CAN SEE THEM FIGHTING FROM HERE.
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

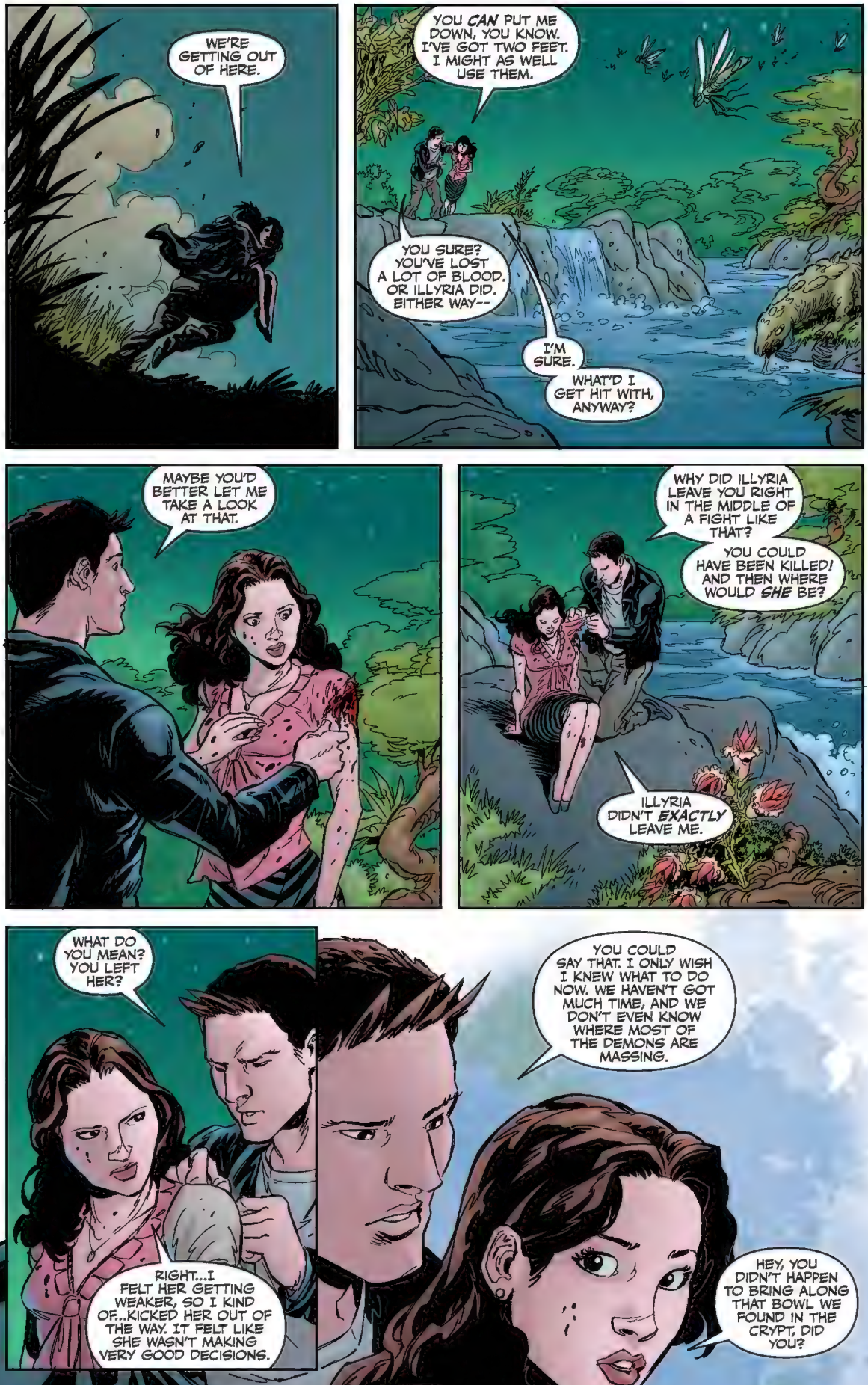
SEE?
YEAH. BUT YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME FOR THAT.
WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.
EVEN SO, I THINK IT IS OUR FAULT THAT THE OTHER ONE IS NOW SO BIG. HE WAS SMALLER WHEN HE FIRST SHOWED UP.
YEAH, THAT WAS A MISTAKE. WE WERE JUST TRYING TO MAKE HIM GO AWAY.
GUESS WE'RE NOT REALLY TOO GOOD WITH SPELLS.
AND ILLYRIA DOESN'T KNOW THAT THIS DEMON HAS ACCIDENTALLY BEEN MAGICALLY ENHANCED?!
NO, OF COURSE NOT!

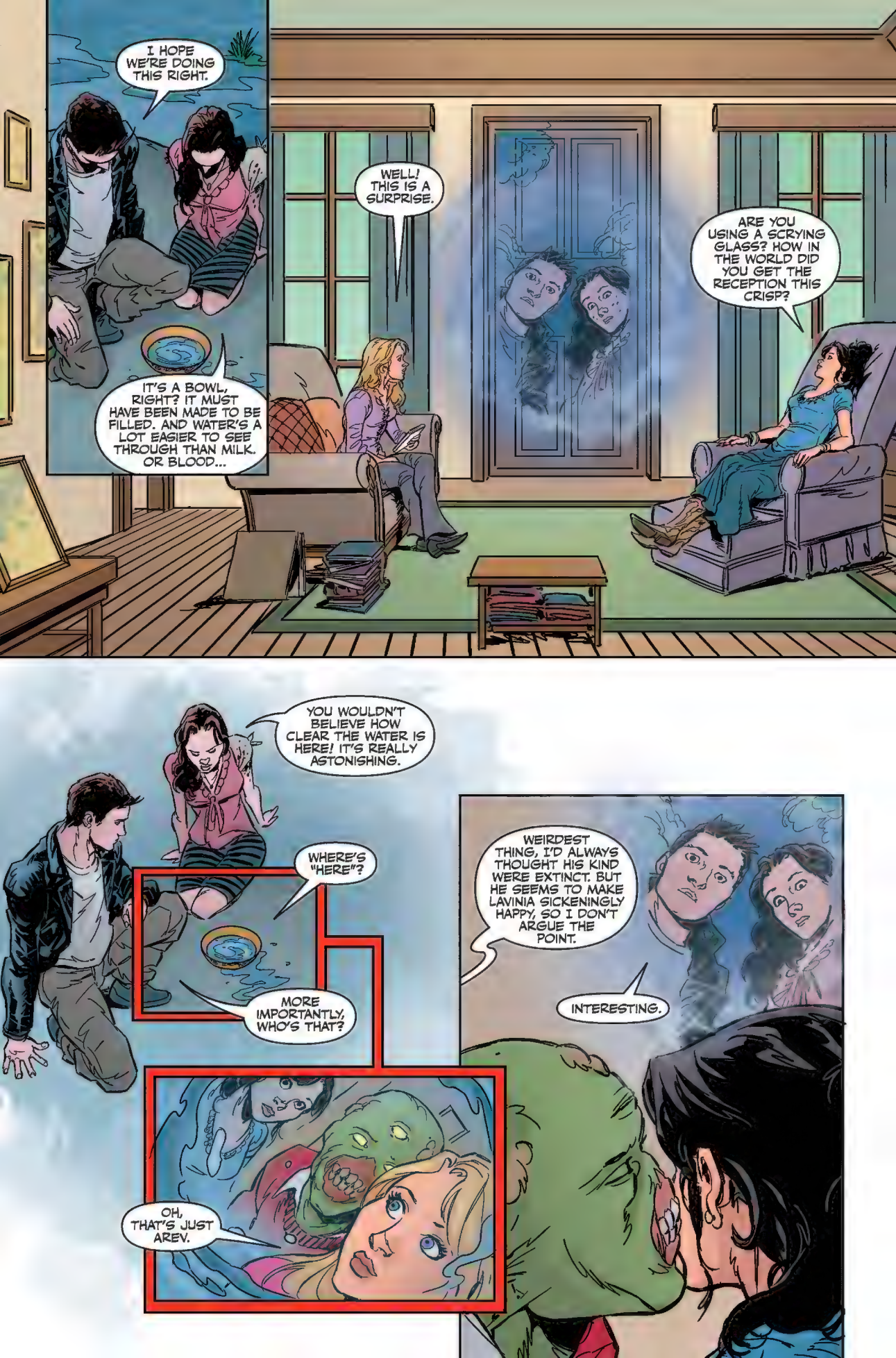
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ILLYRIA!
ILLYRIA, YOU HAVE TO--
UM...
ILLYRIA!

NO!
IT IS ME YOU WANT TO FIGHT!
SNAP
WHUD

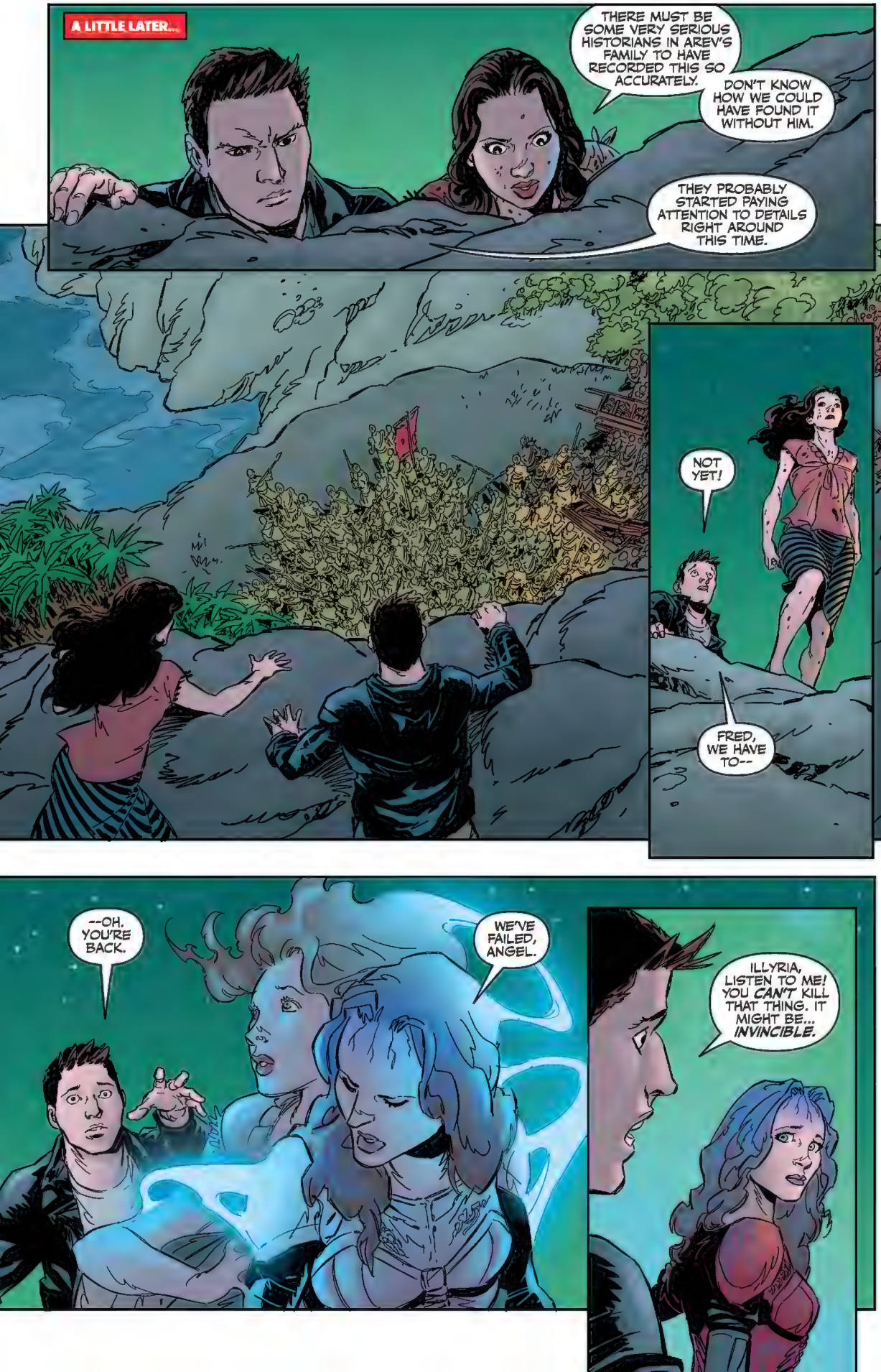
KRAK
NICE CATCH.
WE HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.
HRRAARH!
WHAT IS SHE SAYING?
IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY LITERAL SENSE TO YOU.
BUT BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU I WAS NEVER GOOD AT HOLDING MY TEMPER.
I HAVE TO GO BACK.

ILLYRIA, STOP.
THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW YET!
IF I DO NOT DEFEAT THEM BOTH TONIGHT, TOMORROW WILL BE TOO LATE.
THAT IS ALL I NEED TO KNOW.
YOU'RE WRONG! YOU'RE SO VERY WRONG.
FRED!
ANGEL?
WATCH OUT!

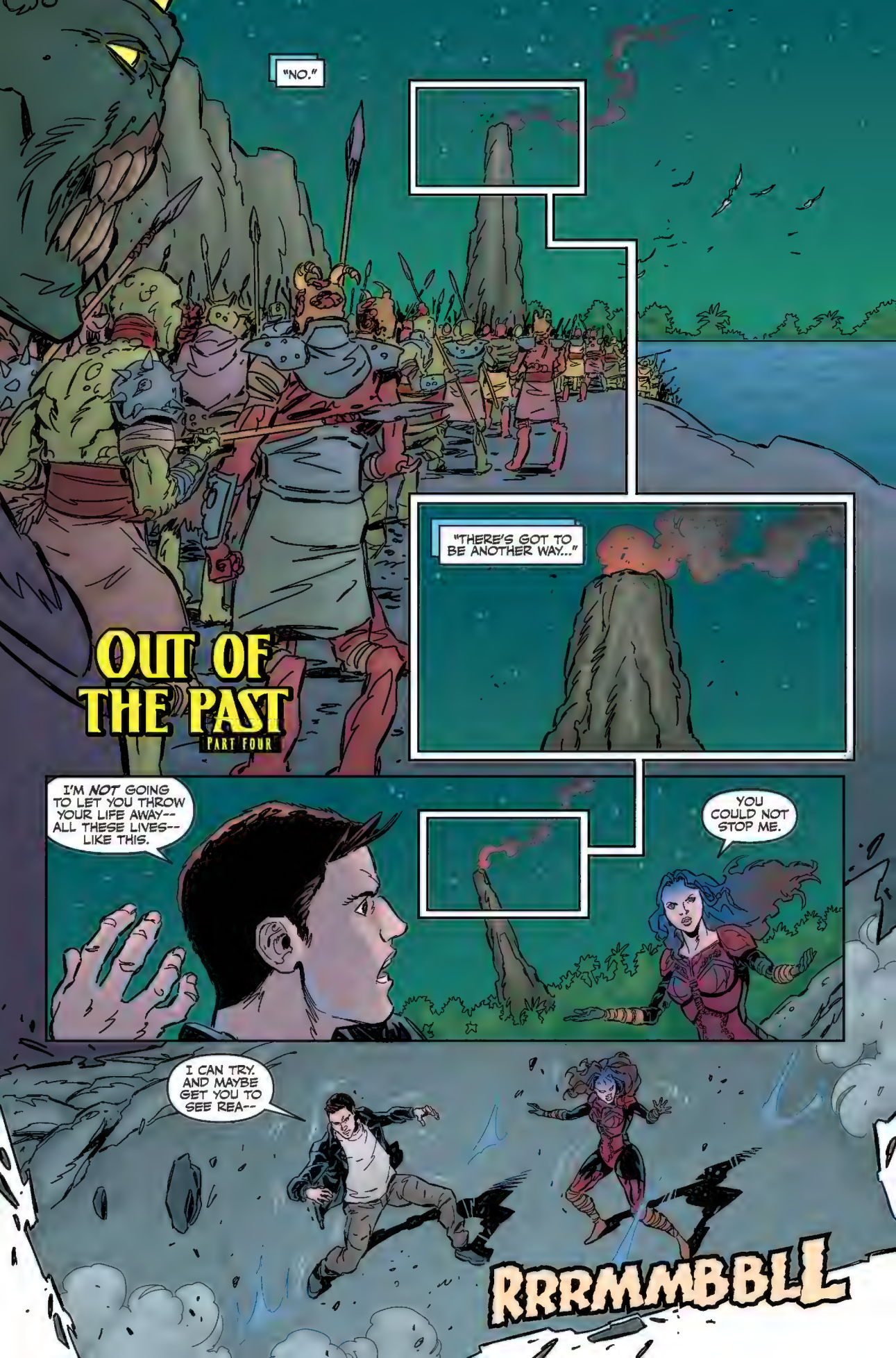

WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.
YOU *CAN* PUT ME DOWN, YOU KNOW. I'VE GOT TWO FEET. I MIGHT AS WELL USE THEM.
YOU SURE? YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD. OR ILLYRIA DID. EITHER WAY--
I'M SURE.
WHAT'D I GET HIT WITH, ANYWAY?
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THAT.
WHY DID ILLYRIA LEAVE YOU RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT LIKE THAT?
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED! AND THEN WHERE WOULD *SHE* BE?
ILLYRIA DIDN'T *EXACTLY* LEAVE ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU LEFT HER?
RIGHT...I FELT HER GETTING WEAKER, SO I KIND OF...KICKED HER OUT OF THE WAY. IT FELT LIKE SHE WASN'T MAKING VERY GOOD DECISIONS.
YOU COULD SAY THAT. I ONLY WISH I KNEW WHAT TO DO NOW. WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME, AND WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE MOST OF THE DEMONS ARE MASSING.
HEY, YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO BRING ALONG THAT BOWL WE FOUND IN THE CRYPT, DID YOU?

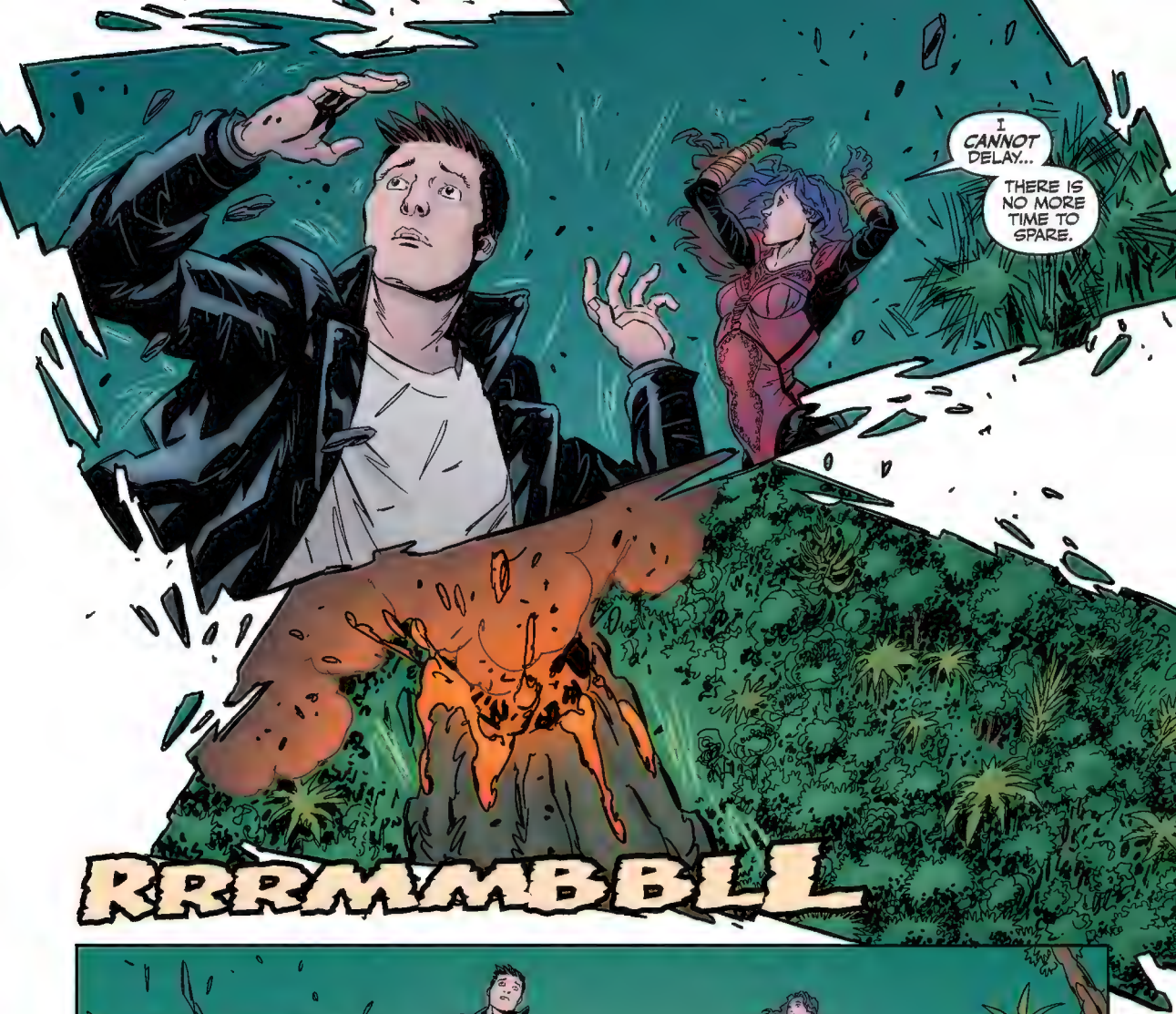

I HOPE WE'RE DOING THIS RIGHT.
IT'S A BOWL, RIGHT? IT MUST HAVE BEEN MADE TO BE FILLED. AND WATER'S A LOT EASIER TO SEE THROUGH THAN MILK. OR BLOOD...
WELL! THIS IS A SURPRISE.
ARE YOU USING A SCRYING GLASS? HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET THE RECEPTION THIS CRISP?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW CLEAR THE WATER IS HERE! IT'S REALLY ASTONISHING.
WHERE'S "HERE"?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHO'S THAT?
OH, THAT'S JUST AREV.
WEIRDEST THING, I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT HIS KIND WERE EXTINCT. BUT HE SEEMS TO MAKE LAVINIA SICKENINGLY HAPPY, SO I DON'T ARGUE THE POINT.
INTERESTING.

LOOKS LIKE WE MANAGED TO CHANGE HISTORY A LITTLE BIT.
I GUESS IT'S GOOD TO KNOW IT *CAN* BE DONE? I WASN'T SO SURE. I MEAN, IT'S LOGICAL, BUT...
LOOK, *YOU* CALLED *US*. THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS TELL US WHAT YOU WANT.
WE SHOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN ON OUR WAY. I PROMISED AREV I'D LET HIM BUY US DINNER AND WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE THE RESERVATION.
WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS...SOMETHING SORT OF LIKE A FAIRYTALE.
YOU WANT US TO TELL YOU A BEDTIME STORY?
WHERE *ARE* YOU, ANYWAY?
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. JUST... MAYBE YOU CAN LET US TALK TO AREV FOR A MOMENT? HE ACTUALLY MIGHT KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. ANGEL, IS IT? YOU SHOULD KNOW I DON'T REALLY GO IN FOR ALL THAT FIGHTING AND SCRAPING YOU LIKE--
YEAH, *NOTED*.
WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW, AREV, IS IF YOU KNOW ANY REALLY OLD STORIES ABOUT AN ANCIENT BATTLE. LIKE, WHERE IT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE.
MY FAMILY *NEVER* WENT IN FOR THAT SORT OF THING.
SO, MAYBE A STORY ABOUT THE KINDS OF PLACES THAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED?


A LITTLE LATER...
THERE MUST BE SOME VERY SERIOUS HISTORIANS IN AREV'S FAMILY TO HAVE RECORDED THIS SO ACCURATELY.
DON'T KNOW HOW WE COULD HAVE FOUND IT WITHOUT HIM.
THEY PROBABLY STARTED PAYING ATTENTION TO DETAILS RIGHT AROUND THIS TIME.
NOT YET!
FRED, WE HAVE TO--
--OH. YOU'RE BACK.
WE'VE FAILED, ANGEL.
ILLYRIA, LISTEN TO ME! YOU *CAN'T* KILL THAT THING. IT MIGHT BE... *INVINCIBLE.*

THEN I WILL HAVE TO KILL MY PAST SELF INSTEAD.
WHAT? NO!
IF YOU DO THAT, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO FRED?!
YOU ARE NOT THINKING CLEARLY.
I'M SORRY, ANGEL. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.
IF I DON'T, YOU'RE BOTH DEAD ANYWAY.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE WAY I ONCE ENDED EVERYTHING?
IF I END ILLYRIA BEFORE SHE CAN AWAKEN THE EARTH, SOMETHING WILL CHANGE.

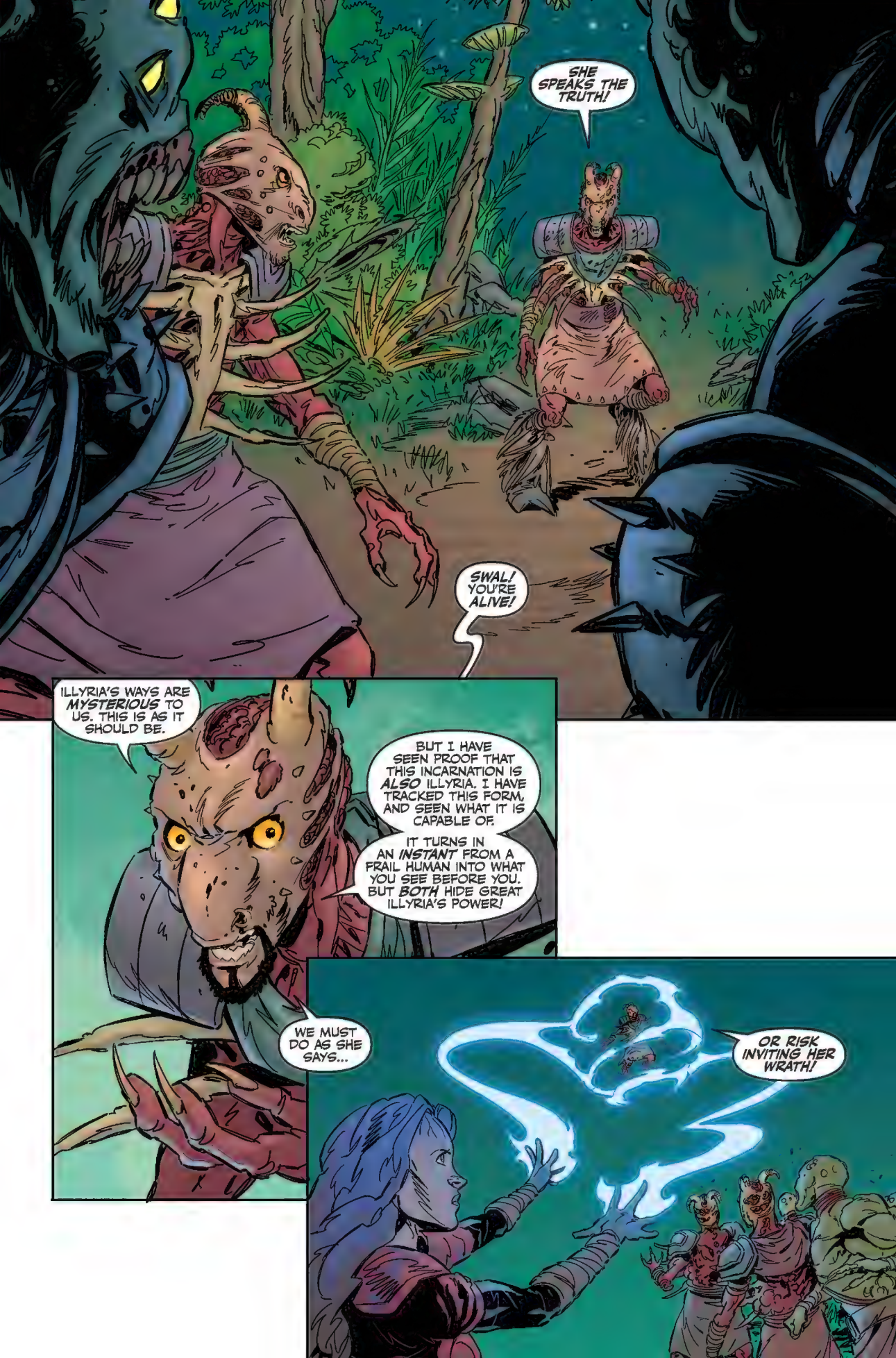

"NO."
"THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY..."
OUT OF THE PAST
PART FOUR
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY-- ALL THESE LIVES-- LIKE THIS.
YOU COULD NOT STOP ME.
I CAN TRY. AND MAYBE GET YOU TO SEE REA--
RRRMMBBLL


I CANNOT DELAY...
THERE IS NO MORE TIME TO SPARE.
RRRMMBBLL

THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU TIME TRAVEL! TAKE US BACK A LITTLE SO WE HAVE MORE.
OR MOVE US FORWARD. ALL OF THIS ALREADY HAPPENED. LET HISTORY FOLLOW ITS OWN COURSE.
I CAN'T JUST CARRY US OVER ONE COURSE AGAIN AND YET AGAIN.

A CHAIN IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK.
DO YOU NOT SEE? WEAKEN JUST ONE AND I RISK SEVERING THE WHOLE.
BUT YOU ARE A GODDESS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE. AT LEAST GIVE IT ONE MORE TRY!

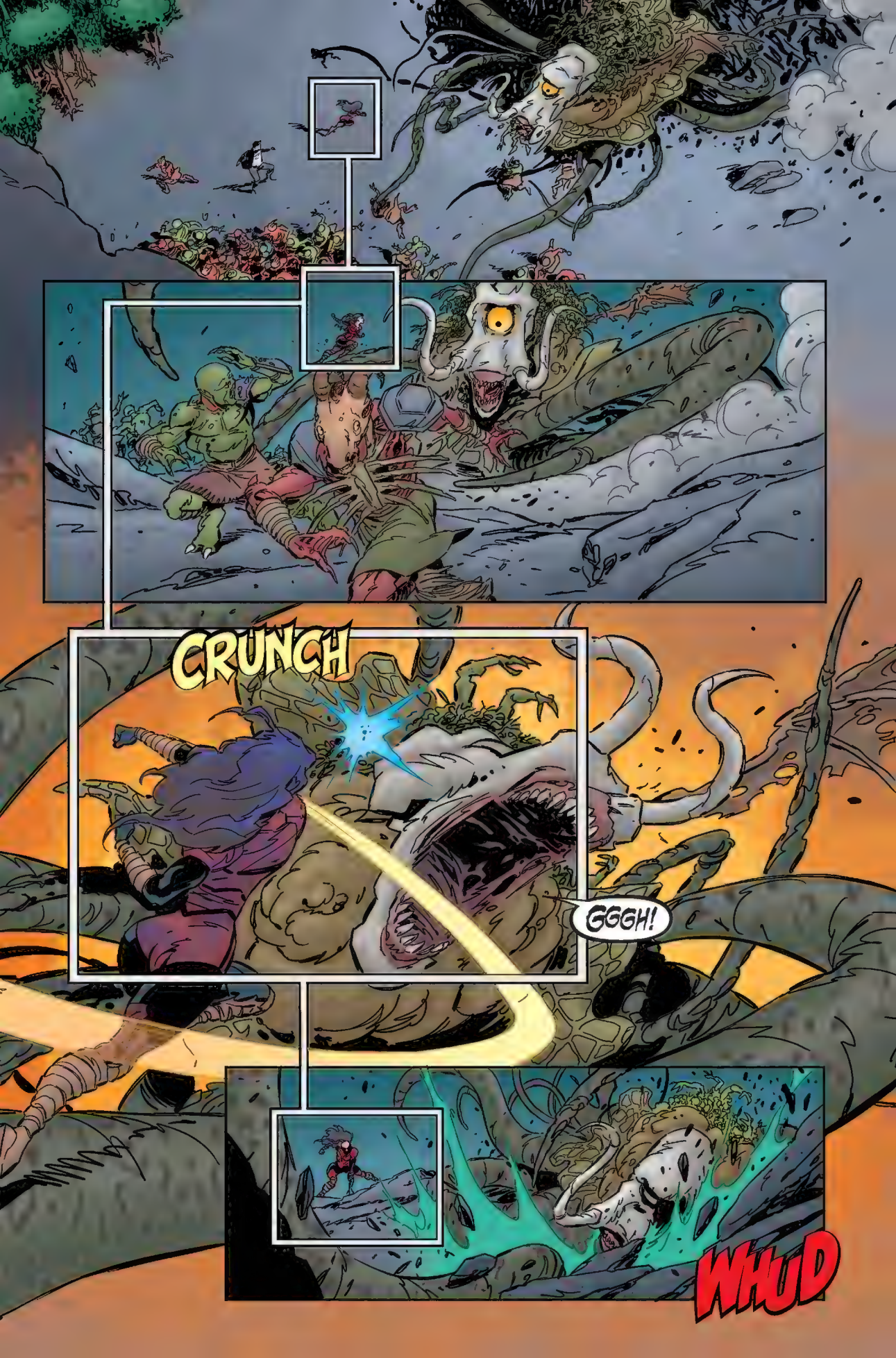
I SEE YOU SERVE ME WELL...
BUT YOUR ACTIONS ARE *MISGUIDED.*
BY ASSEMBLING YOURSELVES HERE YOU ONLY DRAW MY *RIVAL* TO YOU, AND DO *ME* NO HONOR.
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM YOUR GOD, ILLYRIA. *DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE ME?* I WEAR *MANY* GUISES.
RRRMMLLLL
COULD THAT BE ILLYRIA?
HOW?
ILLYRIA WOULD *NEVER* CONSENT TO WEAR SUCH A MORTAL FORM.
IT CAN'T BE HER! *CAN* IT?
DON'T BE FOOLED... *IT LIES!*
NO...
HE'S ALIVE...


SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH!
SWAL! YOU'RE ALIVE!
ILLYRIA'S WAYS ARE MYSTERIOUS TO US. THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE.
BUT I HAVE SEEN PROOF THAT THIS INCARNATION IS ALSO ILLYRIA. I HAVE TRACKED THIS FORM, AND SEEN WHAT IT IS CAPABLE OF.
IT TURNS IN AN INSTANT FROM A FRAIL HUMAN INTO WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU. BUT BOTH HIDE GREAT ILLYRIA'S POWER!
WE MUST DO AS SHE SAYS...
OR RISK INVITING HER WRATH!

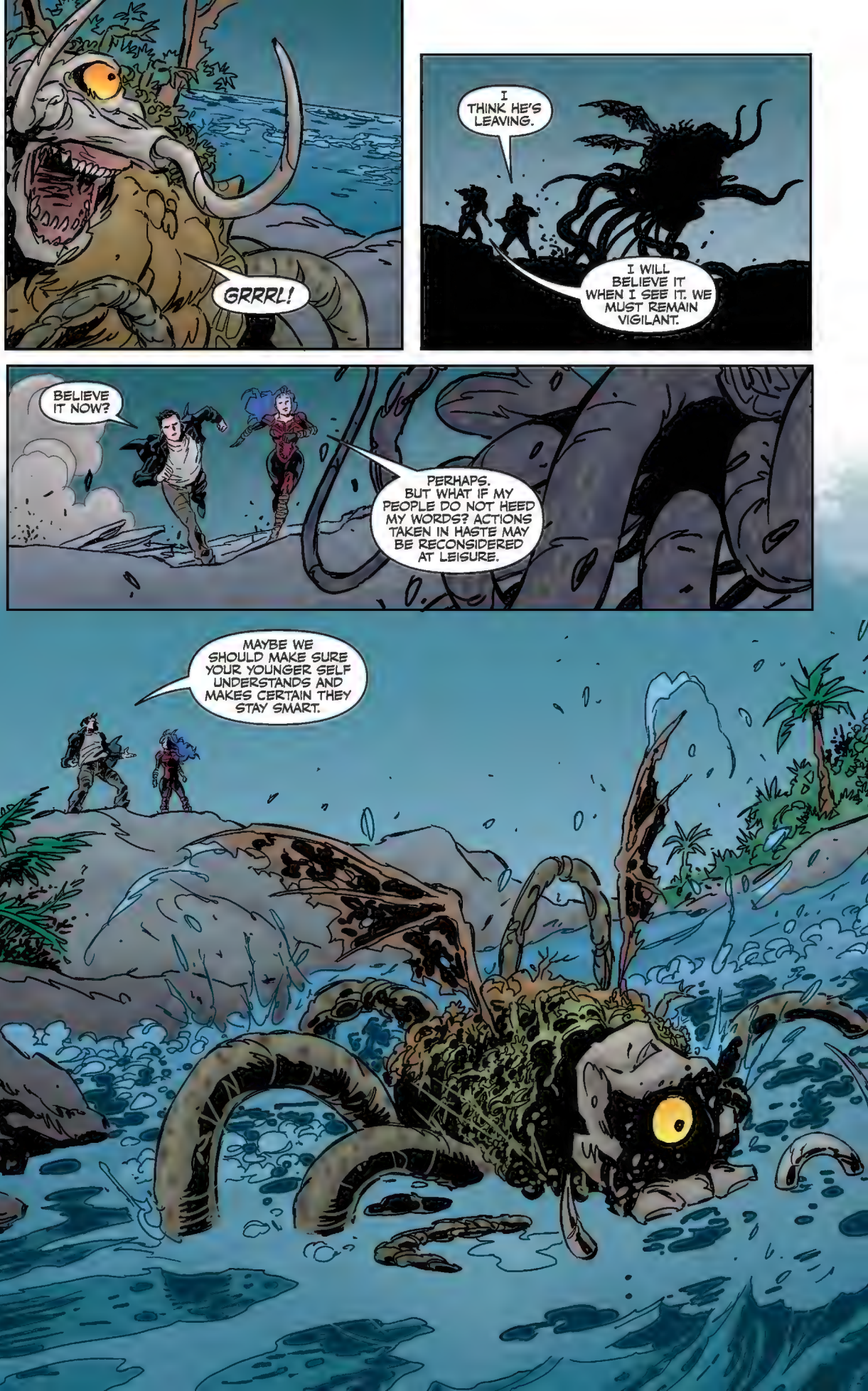
LOOK! HOW IS SHE DOING THAT?
COULD HE BE RIGHT?
HE *MUST* BE! THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION!
YOU MEAN *SHE'S* RIGHT.
WHICH MEANS...
WE MUST DO WHAT SHE SAYS!
IT'S WORKING! YOU AND SWAL HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH TO THEM!
YES, BUT CAN I GET THROUGH TO *MYSELF?* I'M NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS MUCH.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE YOURSELF MORE CRED--
GGRRLL!

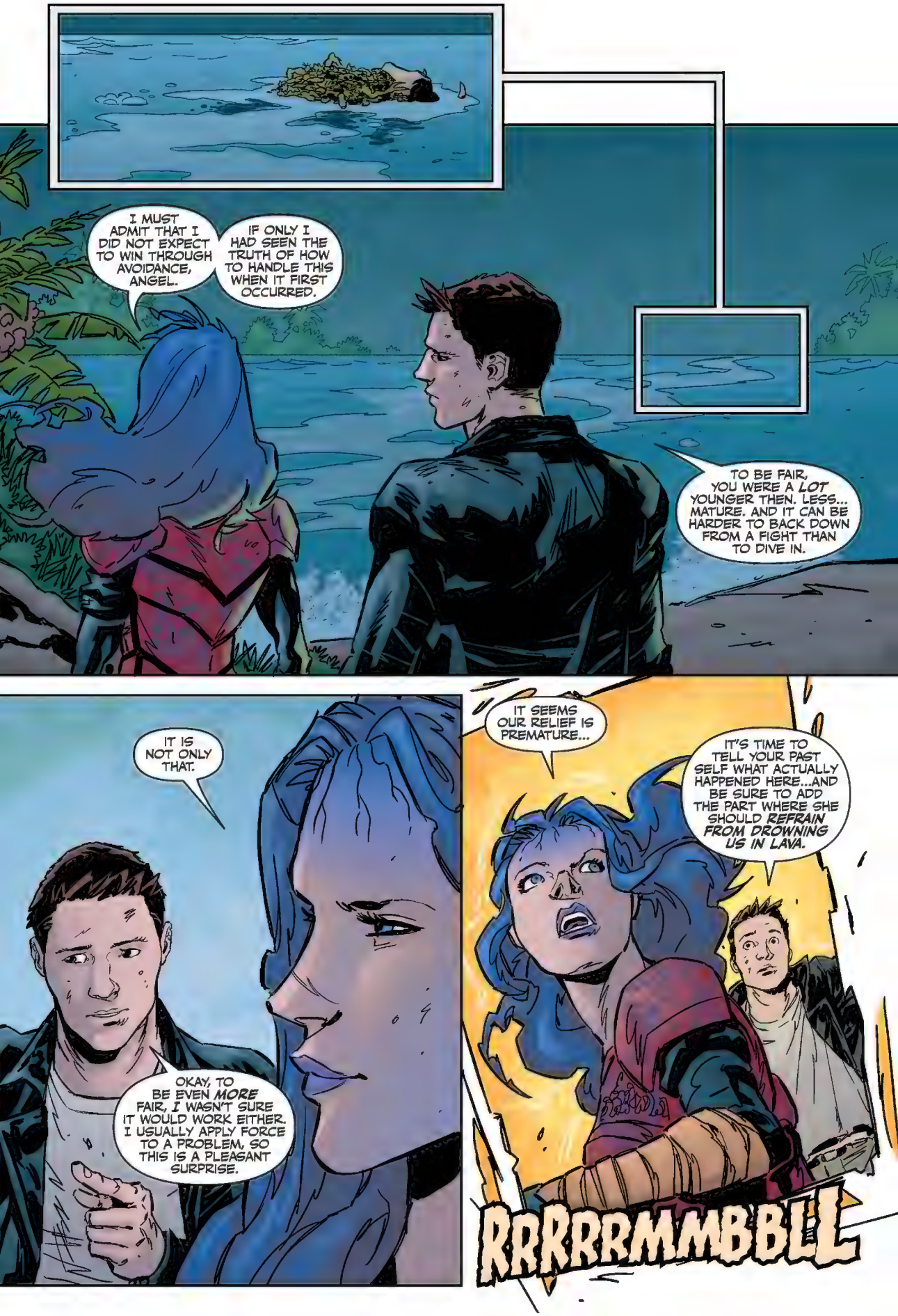
GGRLLL!
RRRMMMBLL
FLEE, YOU IDIOTS!
GO! DO AS SHE SAYS!
NOW!
RRMBBLL

GRLLR!
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE. GO BACK TO YOUR OWN LAND.
RRRRRLLL
YOU HEARD HER. GET OUT OF HERE! HIDE YOURSELVES-- DISGUISE YOUR SCENT!
BUT... ILLYRIA NEEDS US! SHE STRUGGLES AGAINST THE INTERLOPER ON HER OWN.
YES SHE DOES.
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I KILL YOU MYSELF!


CRUNCH
GGGH!
WHUD

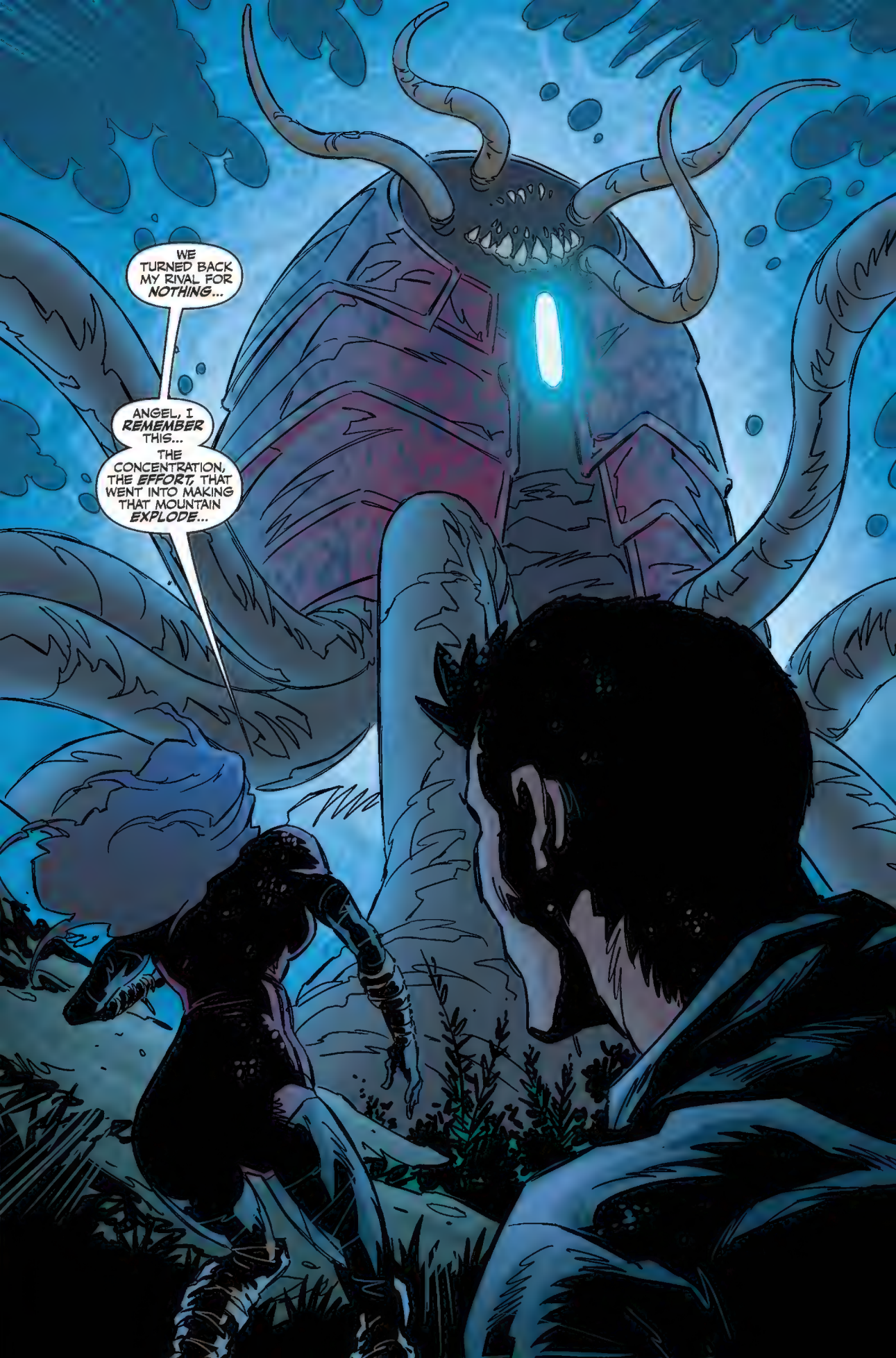
SWIK
EEW, NO!
YOUR TABLE MANNERS ARE--
--TERRIBLE.
SNAP
GGRRGLIRR!


GRRRL!
I THINK HE'S LEAVING.
I WILL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT. WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT.
BELIEVE IT NOW?
PERHAPS. BUT WHAT IF MY PEOPLE DO NOT HEED MY WORDS? ACTIONS TAKEN IN HASTE MAY BE RECONSIDERED AT LEISURE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD MAKE SURE YOUR YOUNGER SELF UNDERSTANDS AND MAKES CERTAIN THEY STAY SMART.


I MUST ADMIT THAT I DID NOT EXPECT TO WIN THROUGH AVOIDANCE, ANGEL.
IF ONLY I HAD SEEN THE TRUTH OF HOW TO HANDLE THIS WHEN IT FIRST OCCURRED.
TO BE FAIR, YOU WERE A *LOT* YOUNGER THEN. LESS... MATURE. AND IT CAN BE HARDER TO BACK DOWN FROM A FIGHT THAN TO DIVE IN.
IT IS NOT ONLY THAT.
OKAY, TO BE EVEN *MORE* FAIR, I WASN'T SURE IT WOULD WORK EITHER. I USUALLY APPLY FORCE TO A PROBLEM, SO THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE.
IT SEEMS OUR RELIEF IS PREMATURE...
IT'S TIME TO TELL YOUR PAST SELF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED HERE...AND BE SURE TO ADD THE PART WHERE SHE SHOULD *REFRAIN FROM DROWNING US IN LAVA.*
RRRRRMMBBLL

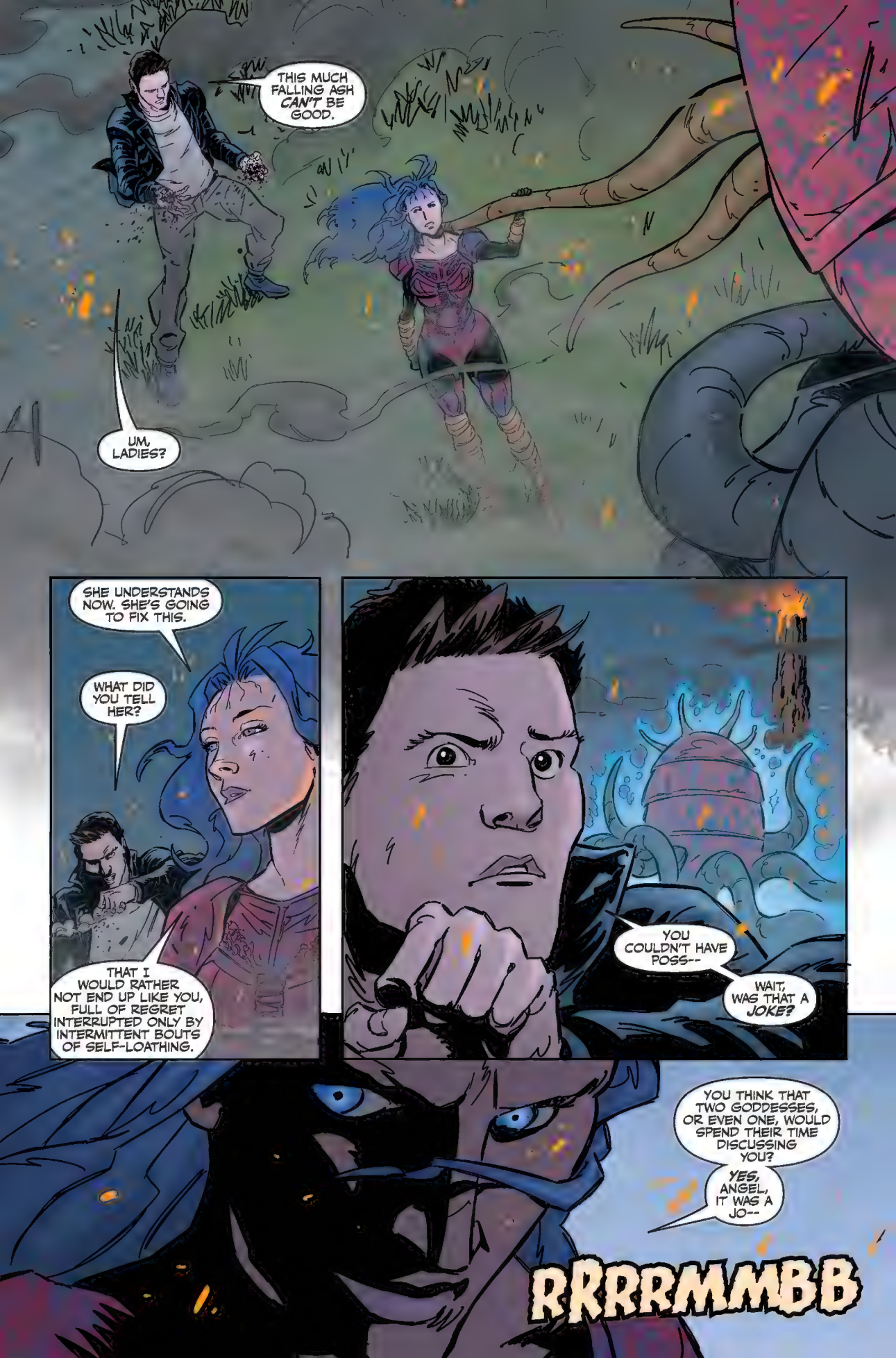
WELL...
COME ON THEN!
WAIT.

WHAT NOW?
JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU'LL DO WHEN WE FIND YOUR PAST SELF.
I WILL SPEAK TO HER. MAKE IT SO THAT SHE...THAT *I* SEE REASON.
AND IF SHE *WON'T?*
WE WILL DEAL WITH THAT EVENTUALITY WHEN WE COME TO IT.
JUST PROMISE ME YOU WON'T KILL HER.
THE MERCILESS ONE *DOES NOT* MAKE PROMISES.
FOR WHO COULD EVER HOLD *ME* ACCOUNTABLE?


WE TURNED BACK MY RIVAL FOR NOTHING...
ANGEL, I REMEMBER THIS...
THE CONCENTRATION, THE EFFORT, THAT WENT INTO MAKING THAT MOUNTAIN EXPLODE...

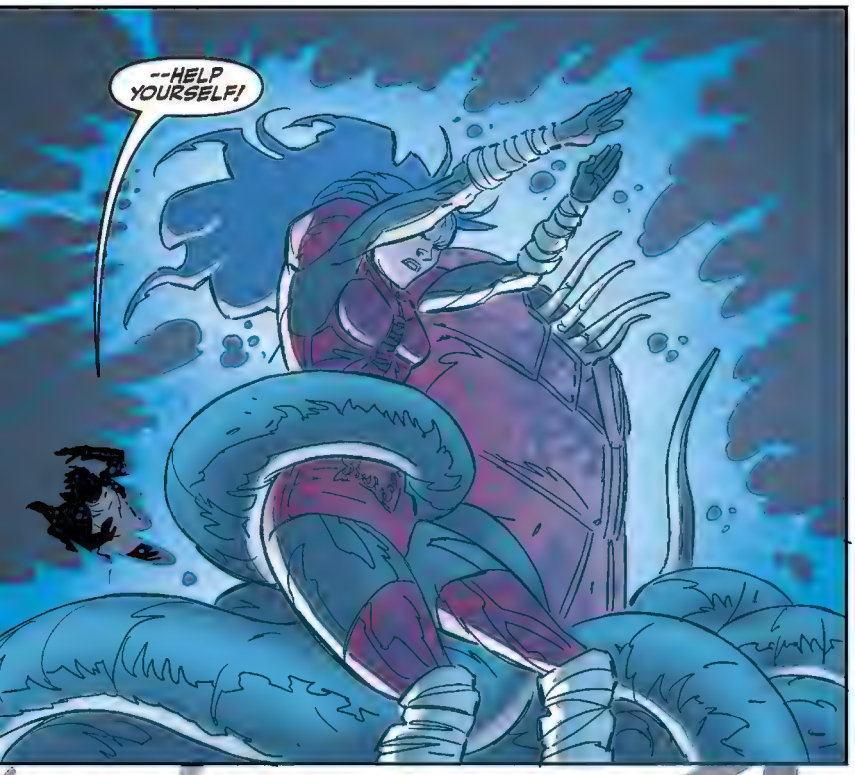
STOP!
STOP! I AM NOT AN ENEMY!
NO!
BOTH OF YOU, LISTEN TO ME!
IS THIS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?
RRRMMBLL

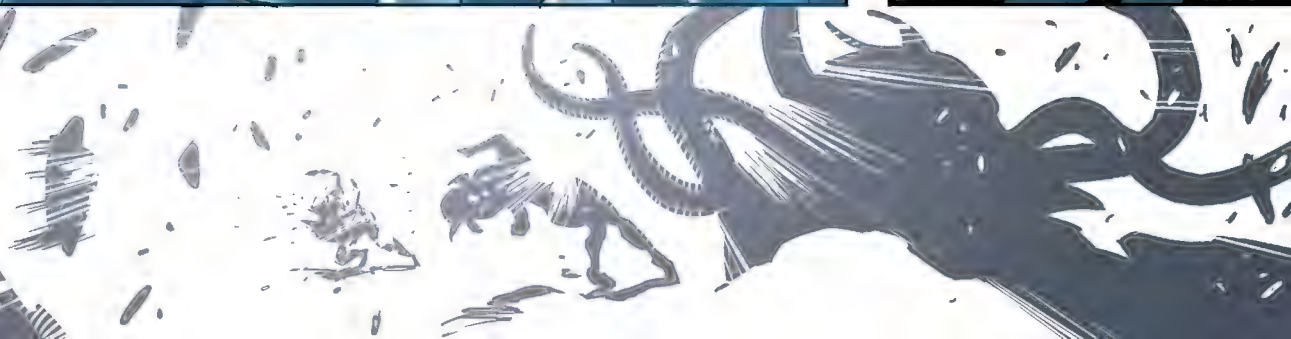
ILLYRIA, YOU HAVE TO STOP!
THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN. YOU STARTED THIS, YOU CAN END IT. USE YOUR WORDS, NOT YOUR FISTS. REMEMBER?
TELL YOURSELF THAT YOU WILL NEVER GET OVER THE REGRET OF THIS MOMENT, THAT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY!
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, TINY BLOODSUCKER.
SHE NEEDS TO HAVE A HEART-TO-HEART WITH YOU...
BUT YOU'D BETTER MAKE IT QUICK.


THIS MUCH FALLING ASH CAN'T BE GOOD.
UM, LADIES?
SHE UNDERSTANDS NOW. SHE'S GOING TO FIX THIS.
WHAT DID YOU TELL HER?
THAT I WOULD RATHER NOT END UP LIKE YOU, FULL OF REGRET INTERRUPTED ONLY BY INTERMITTENT BOUTS OF SELF-LOATHING.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE POSS--
WAIT, WAS THAT A JOKE?
YOU THINK THAT TWO GODDESSES, OR EVEN ONE, WOULD SPEND THEIR TIME DISCUSSING YOU?
YES, ANGEL, IT WAS A JO--
RRRRMMBB

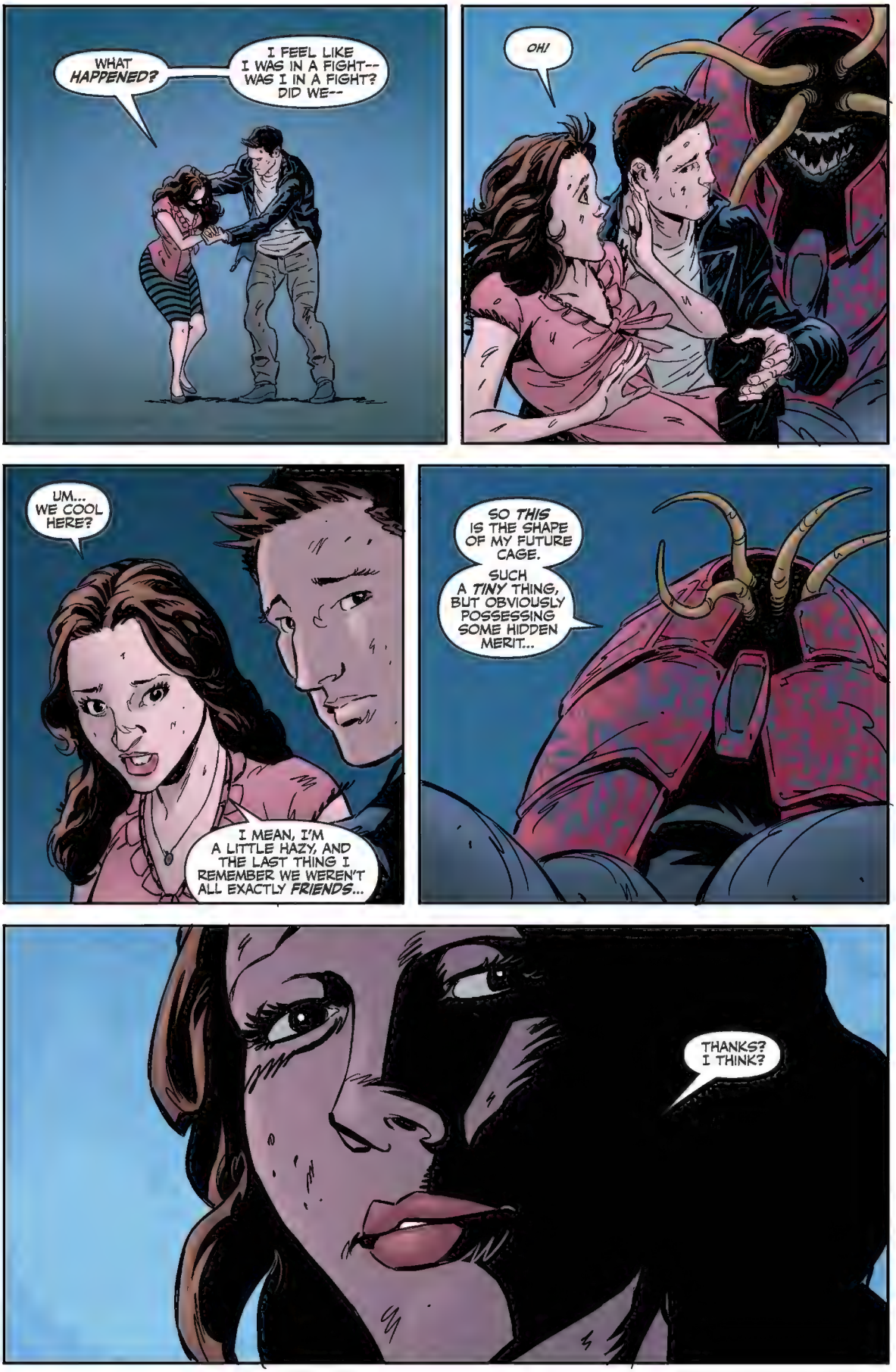
IT'S NOT WORKING! I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH!
RRRMMMBBBB

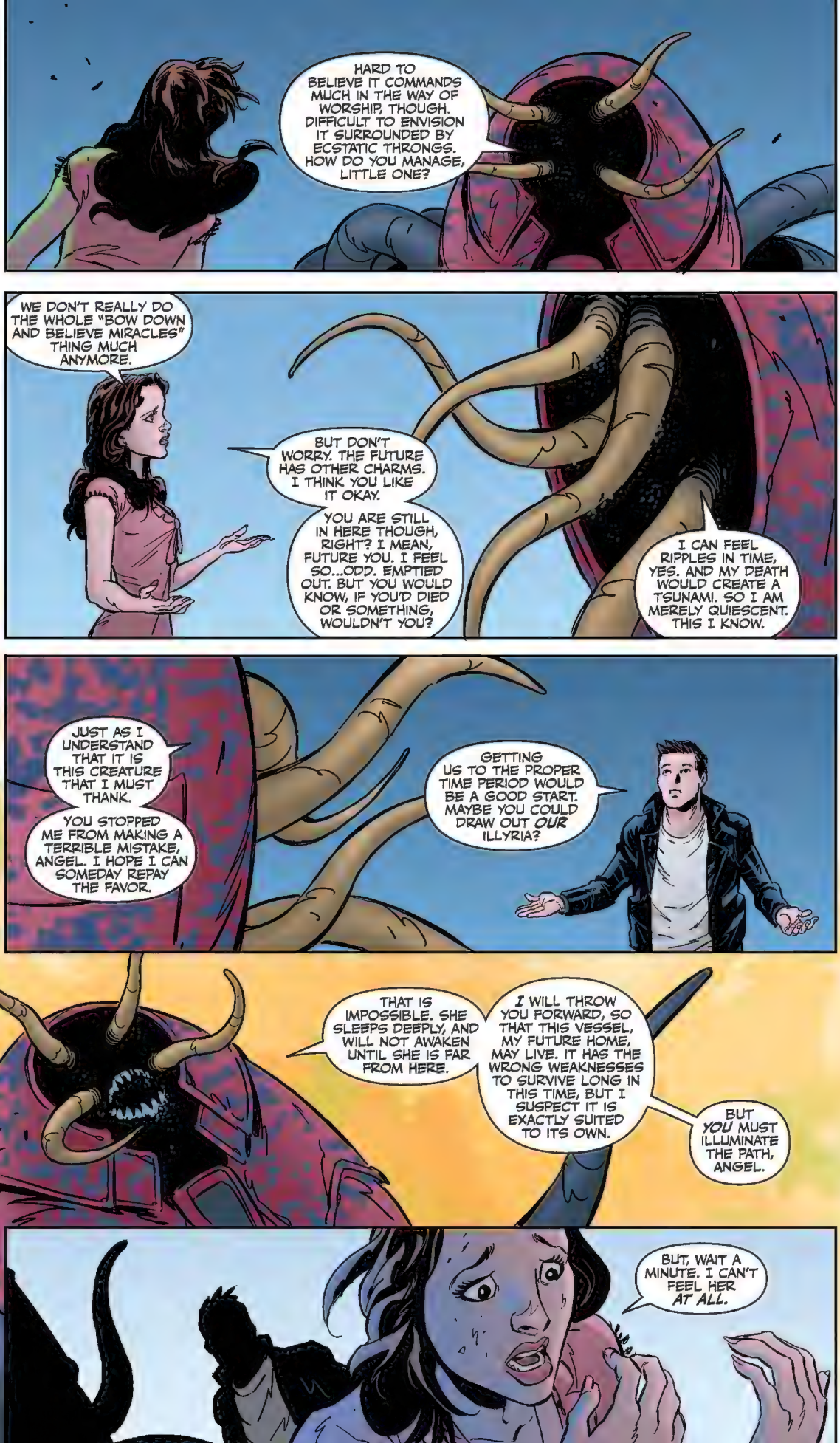
MAYBE YOU AREN'T IN THIS TIME...
BUT YOU'VE LEARNED A LOT SINCE THEN! GO ON--


--HELP YOURSELF!



YOU DID IT! TOGETHER, YOU DID IT!
ILLYRIA, YOU...
ILLYRIA?
ILLYRIA!
SHE PUT TOO MUCH OF HERSELF INTO STOPPING THE TORRENT. I COULD FEEL IT.
DOING SO WAS... UNWISE.
ANGEL?
ANGEL, I FEEL AWFUL.

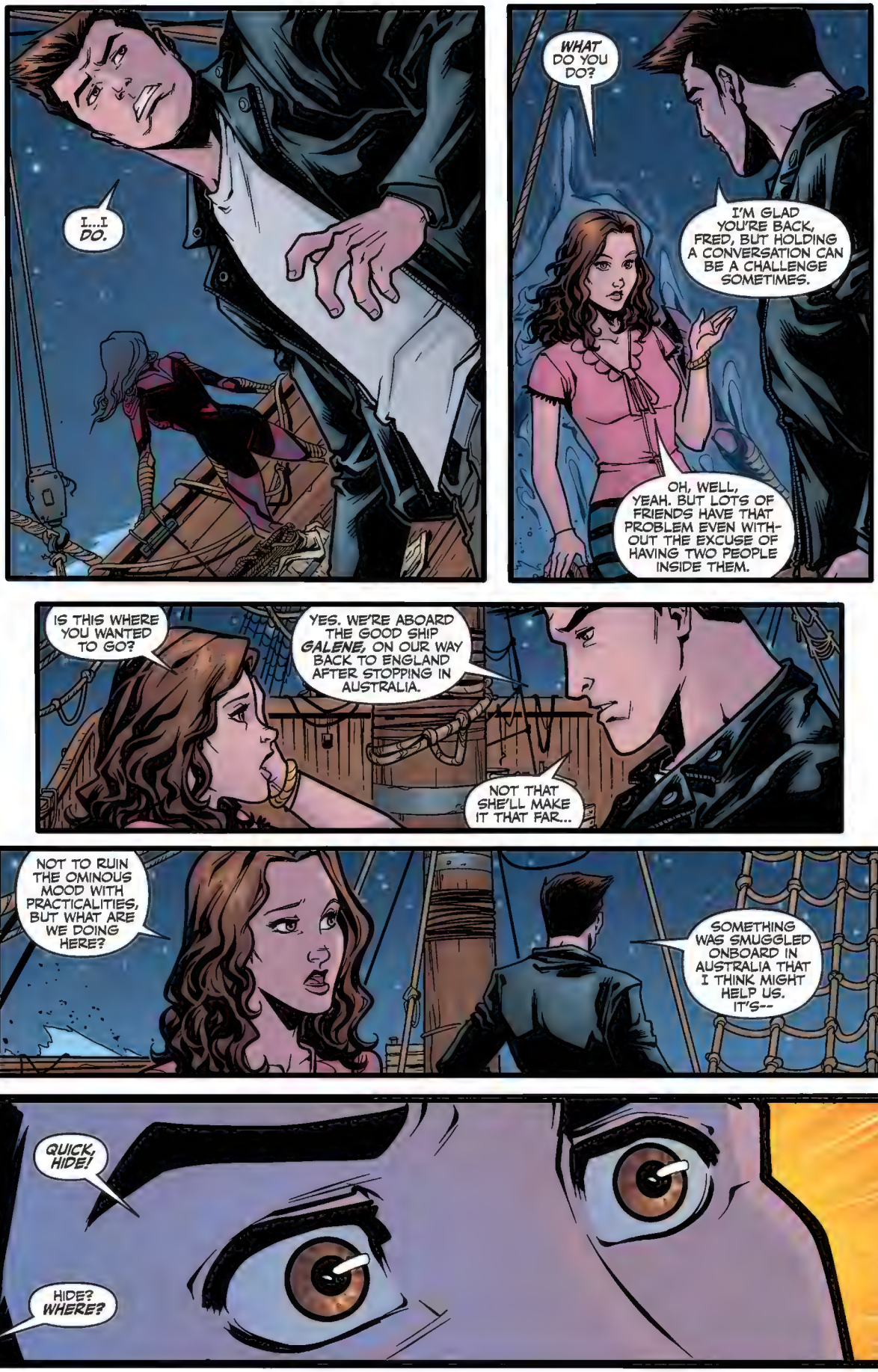

WHAT HAPPENED?
I FEEL LIKE I WAS IN A FIGHT-- WAS I IN A FIGHT? DID WE--
OH!
UM... WE COOL HERE?
I MEAN, I'M A LITTLE HAZY, AND THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WE WEREN'T ALL EXACTLY FRIENDS...
SO THIS IS THE SHAPE OF MY FUTURE CAGE.
SUCH A TINY THING, BUT OBVIOUSLY POSSESSING SOME HIDDEN MERIT...
THANKS? I THINK?

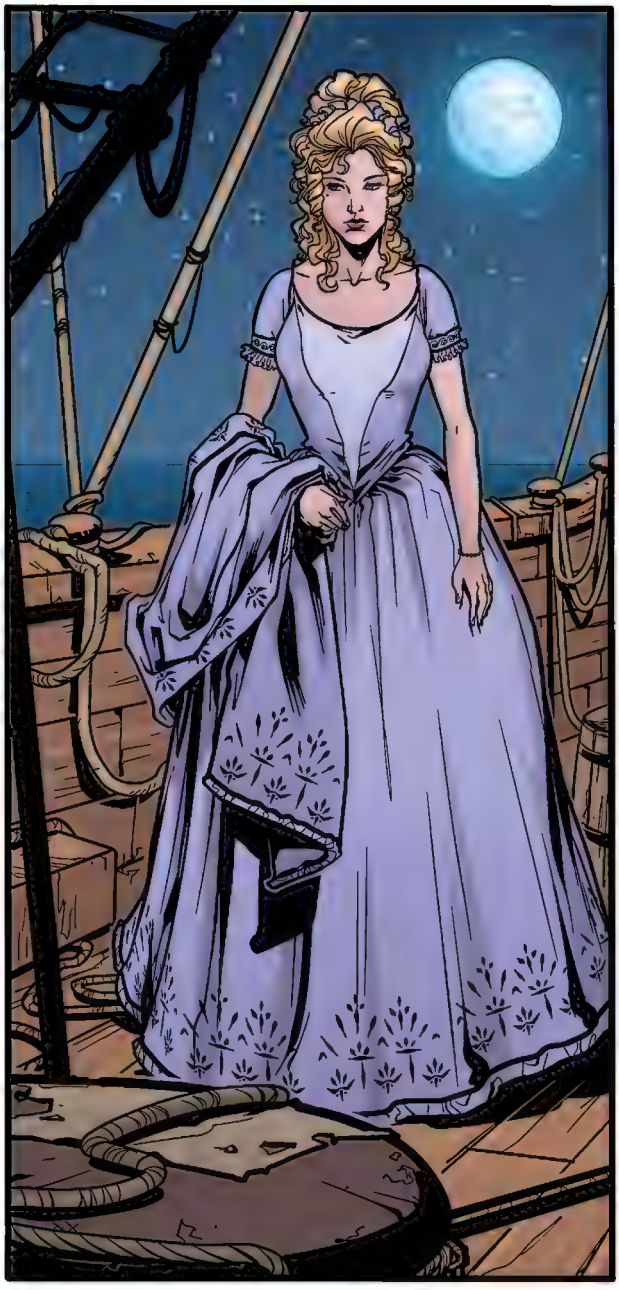

HARD TO BELIEVE IT COMMANDS MUCH IN THE WAY OF WORSHIP, THOUGH. DIFFICULT TO ENVISION IT SURROUNDED BY ECSTATIC THRONGS. HOW DO YOU MANAGE, LITTLE ONE?
WE DON'T REALLY DO THE WHOLE "BOW DOWN AND BELIEVE MIRACLES" THING MUCH ANYMORE.
BUT DON'T WORRY. THE FUTURE HAS OTHER CHARMS. I THINK YOU LIKE IT OKAY.
YOU ARE STILL IN HERE THOUGH, RIGHT? I MEAN, FUTURE YOU. I FEEL SO...ODD. EMPTIED OUT. BUT YOU WOULD KNOW, IF YOU'D DIED OR SOMETHING, WOULDN'T YOU?
I CAN FEEL RIPPLES IN TIME, YES. AND MY DEATH WOULD CREATE A TSUNAMI. SO I AM MERELY QUIESCENT. THIS I KNOW.
JUST AS I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS THIS CREATURE THAT I MUST THANK.
YOU STOPPED ME FROM MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, ANGEL. I HOPE I CAN SOMEDAY REPAY THE FAVOR.
GETTING US TO THE PROPER TIME PERIOD WOULD BE A GOOD START. MAYBE YOU COULD DRAW OUT *OUR* ILLYRIA?
THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. SHE SLEEPS DEEPLY, AND WILL NOT AWAKEN UNTIL SHE IS FAR FROM HERE.
I WILL THROW YOU FORWARD, SO THAT THIS VESSEL, MY FUTURE HOME, MAY LIVE. IT HAS THE WRONG WEAKNESSES TO SURVIVE LONG IN THIS TIME, BUT I SUSPECT IT IS EXACTLY SUITED TO ITS OWN.
BUT *YOU* MUST ILLUMINATE THE PATH, ANGEL.
BUT, WAIT A MINUTE. I CAN'T FEEL HER *AT ALL.*

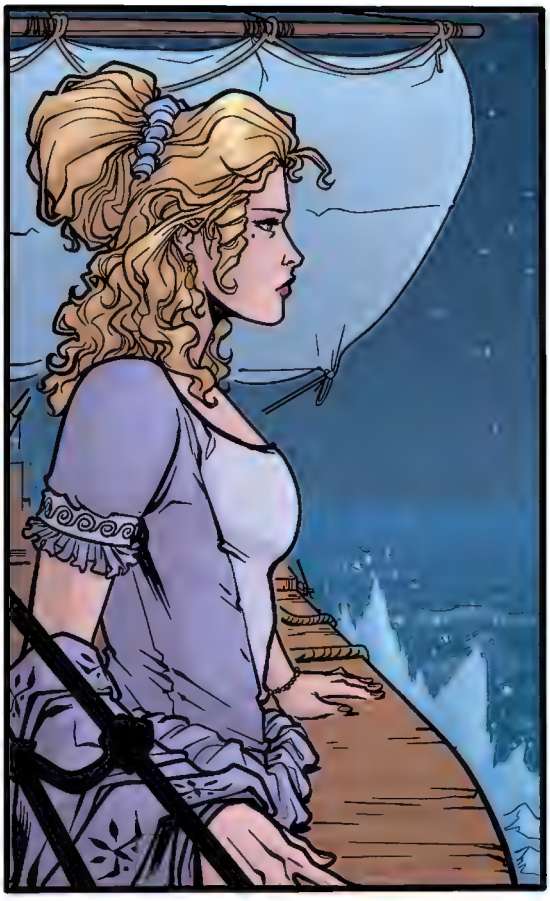
WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T WAKE UP?
WILL WE JUST BE LOST IN TIME? WHAT DO WE DO THEN?
WAIT, *HOW* DO I "ILLUMINATE" THE PATH?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO *DO?*
FAREWELL, ANGEL. FAREWELL, CAGE.
WAIT!

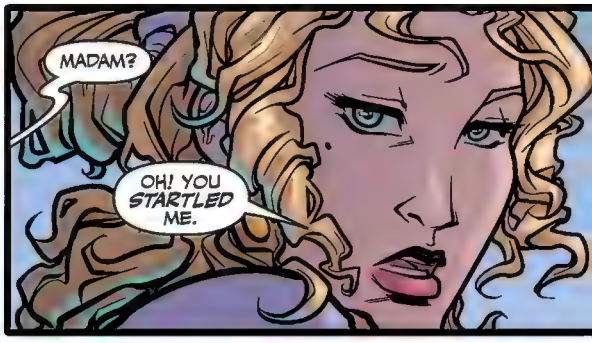
WELCOME BACK, ILLYRIA. I WAS STARTING TO REALLY WONDER...
SHOULDN'T I HAVE SAID WHERE...
THAT IS, WHEN...
...WE HAVE TO GO?
NO NEED, ANGEL.
DID YOU NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR THOUGHTS AS WE TRAVELED? WERE YOU NOT REMEMBERING YOUR VISION WHEN WE WERE THROWN THROUGH TIME?

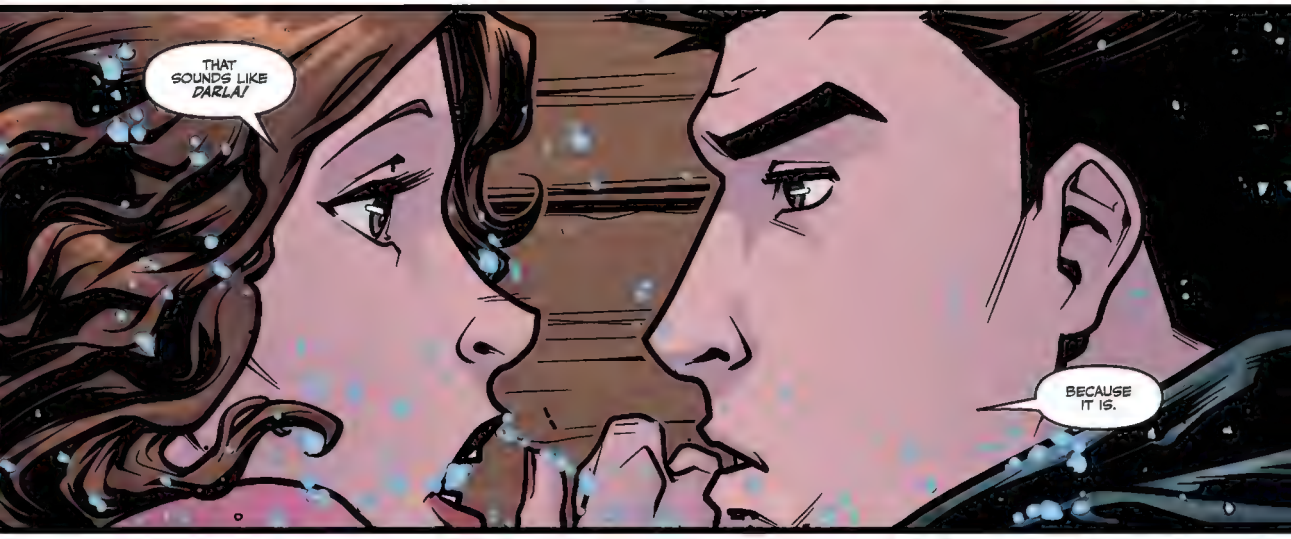
TIME AND TIDE
PART ONE
WE ARE ALMOST TO THAT LONG-AGO TURNING POINT IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU THINK WILL SAVE THE FUTURE.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS FIX YOUR PAST.
YOU RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE, YES?

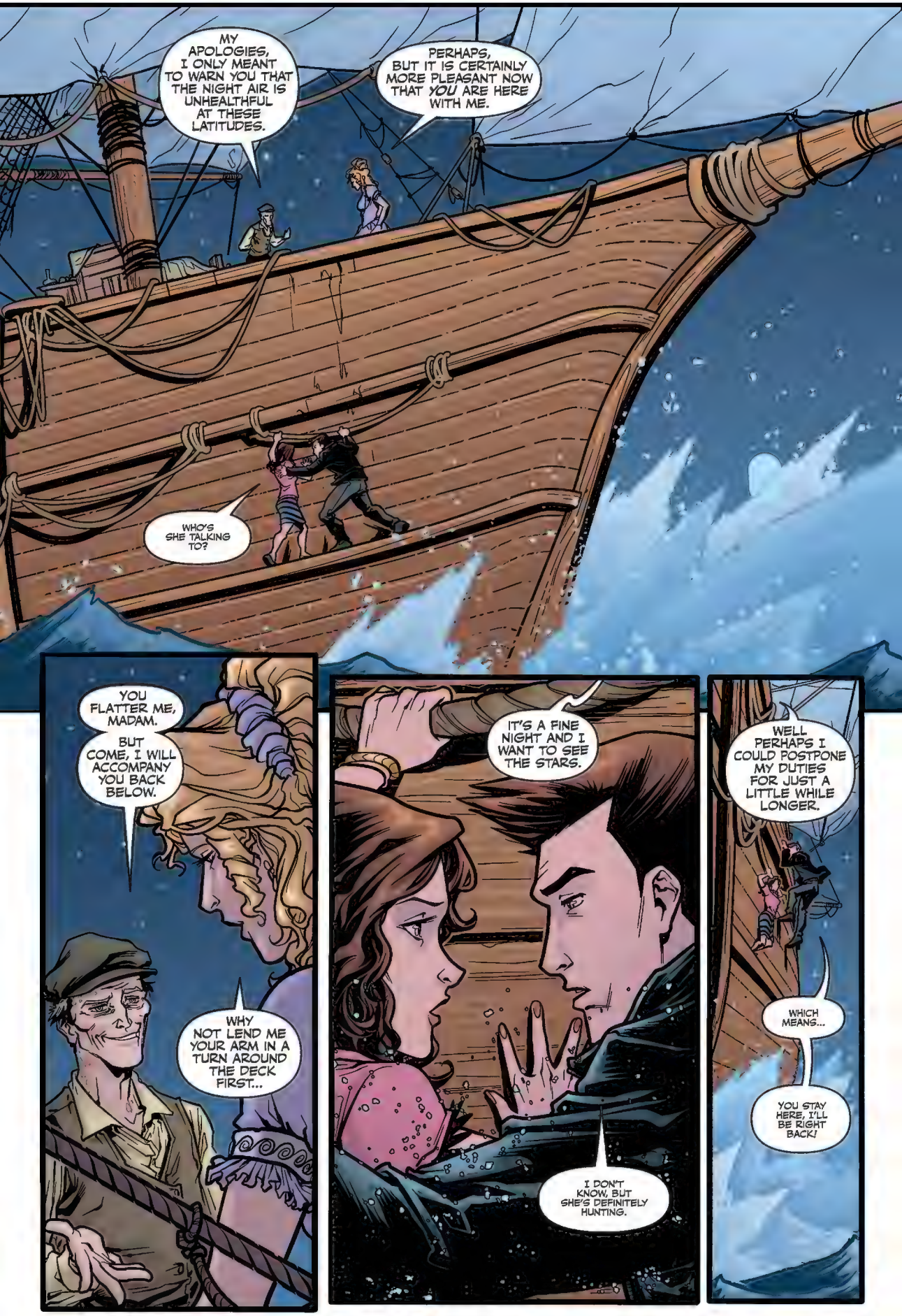

I...I DO.
WHAT DO YOU DO?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK, FRED, BUT HOLDING A CONVERSATION CAN BE A CHALLENGE SOMETIMES.
OH, WELL, YEAH. BUT LOTS OF FRIENDS HAVE THAT PROBLEM EVEN WITHOUT THE EXCUSE OF HAVING TWO PEOPLE INSIDE THEM.
IS THIS WHERE YOU WANTED TO GO?
YES. WE'RE ABOARD THE GOOD SHIP GALENE, ON OUR WAY BACK TO ENGLAND AFTER STOPPING IN AUSTRALIA.
NOT THAT SHE'LL MAKE IT THAT FAR...
NOT TO RUIN THE OMINOUS MOOD WITH PRACTICALITIES, BUT WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
SOMETHING WAS SMUGGLED ONBOARD IN AUSTRALIA THAT I THINK MIGHT HELP US. IT'S--
QUICK, HIDE!
HIDE? WHERE?



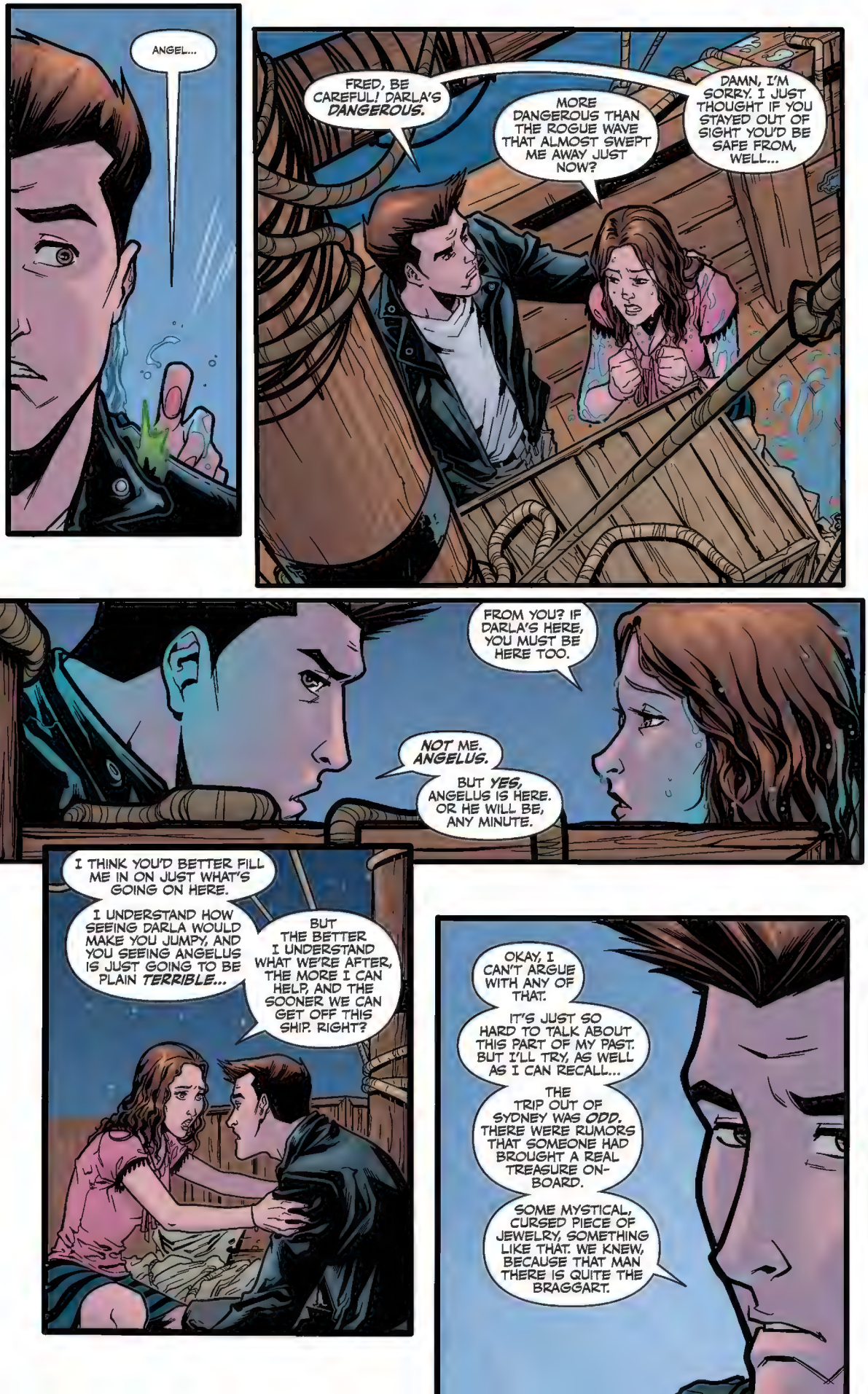



MADAM?
OH! YOU STARTLED ME.


THAT SOUNDS LIKE DARLA!
BECAUSE IT IS.


MY APOLOGIES, I ONLY MEANT TO WARN YOU THAT THE NIGHT AIR IS UNHEALTHFUL AT THESE LATITUDES.
PERHAPS, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY MORE PLEASANT NOW THAT *YOU* ARE HERE WITH ME.
WHO'S SHE TALKING TO?
YOU FLATTER ME, MADAM.
BUT COME, I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU BACK BELOW.
WHY NOT LEND ME YOUR ARM IN A TURN AROUND THE DECK FIRST...
IT'S A FINE NIGHT AND I WANT TO SEE THE STARS.
I DON'T KNOW, BUT SHE'S DEFINITELY HUNTING.
WELL PERHAPS I COULD POSTPONE MY DUTIES FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
WHICH MEANS...
YOU STAY HERE, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
IT'S JUST THE WIND AND WAVES MAKING THE SHIP SPEAK, MADAM.
YOU LIVE AT SEA AS LONG AS I HAVE AND YOU GET USED TO IT.
NOW, COME BELOW...
I PICKED UP SOMETHING AWFULLY PRETTY IN SYDNEY THAT I'D LOVE TO SHOW TO YOU.


ANGEL...
FRED, BE CAREFUL! DARLA'S *DANGEROUS.*
MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE ROGUE WAVE THAT ALMOST SWEPT ME AWAY JUST NOW?
DAMN, I'M SORRY. I JUST THOUGHT IF YOU STAYED OUT OF SIGHT YOU'D BE SAFE FROM, WELL...
FROM YOU? IF DARLA'S HERE, YOU MUST BE HERE TOO.
NOT ME. *ANGELUS.*
BUT *YES,* ANGELUS IS HERE. OR HE WILL BE, ANY MINUTE.
I THINK YOU'D BETTER FILL ME IN ON JUST WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
I UNDERSTAND HOW SEEING DARLA WOULD MAKE YOU JUMPY, AND YOU SEEING ANGELUS IS JUST GOING TO BE PLAIN *TERRIBLE...*
BUT THE BETTER I UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE AFTER, THE MORE I CAN HELP, AND THE SOONER WE CAN GET OFF THIS SHIP. RIGHT?
OKAY, I CAN'T ARGUE WITH ANY OF THAT.
IT'S JUST SO HARD TO TALK ABOUT THIS PART OF MY PAST. BUT I'LL TRY, AS WELL AS I CAN RECALL...
THE TRIP OUT OF SYDNEY WAS *ODD.* THERE WERE RUMORS THAT SOMEONE HAD BROUGHT A REAL TREASURE ON-BOARD.
SOME MYSTICAL, CURSED PIECE OF JEWELRY, SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WE KNEW, BECAUSE THAT MAN THERE IS QUITE THE BRAGGART.

THING IS, THIS BIT OF JEWELRY IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE SHAPE OF A BEETLE.
DID YOU EVER SEE IT?
NO, AND IT'S MY--ANGELUS'S-- FAULT. DARLA WAS TRYING TO GET THE LOCATION FROM HIM BEFORE SHE FED...

"BUT ANGELUS GOT IMPATIENT...OR IF YOU WANT THE WHOLE TRUTH, MAYBE A BIT JEALOUS."

YOU WERE SAYING YOU HAD SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SHOW ME IN YOUR QUARTERS?
NOT IN MY QUARTERS, MADAM. TOO MANY PRYING EYES THERE...

BUT IF YOU COME WITH ME I'LL SHOW YOU QUITE A FINE SECRET.
I THINK THAT JEWELED BEETLE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY VISION.
BUT THE ONLY WAY WE'LL FIND IT...

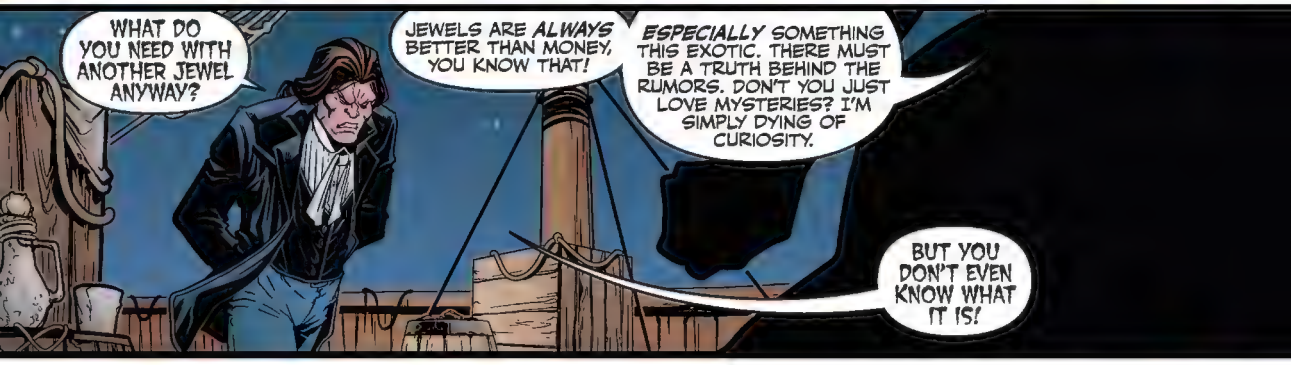
...IS IF I GET TO THAT MAN BEFORE ANGELUS DOES!
THEN PLEASE, LEAD THE WAY. I'M SIMPLY DYING TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SHOW ME.
DARLA!
SURELY YOU WEREN'T GOING TO SNEAK OFF WITHOUT SHARING YOUR GOOD FORTUNE WITH ME?
OF COURSE NOT.

ONLY, YOU'VE ARRIVED AT A RATHER *INOPPORTUNE* MOMENT.
IS THAT SO? OR WERE YOU JUST TRYING TO KEEP THIS *OPPORTUNITY* FOR YOURSELF?
STOP BEING SO RASH, ANGELUS.
I, UH... AM NEEDED BACK AT MY STATION...
MUST YOU *ALWAYS* GET IN THE WAY?
AH, SO YOU *AREN'T* KEEN ON SHARING TONIGHT.
ANGELUS, PLEASE, YOU ARE FRIGHTENING--
OH! *WHERE* DID HE GET TO?
IT DOESN'T MATTER, HE CAN'T GO *FAR*.

I WOULDN'T YELL IF I WERE YOU...
UNLESS YOU WANT A SHORT TRIP BACK TO THE DECK.

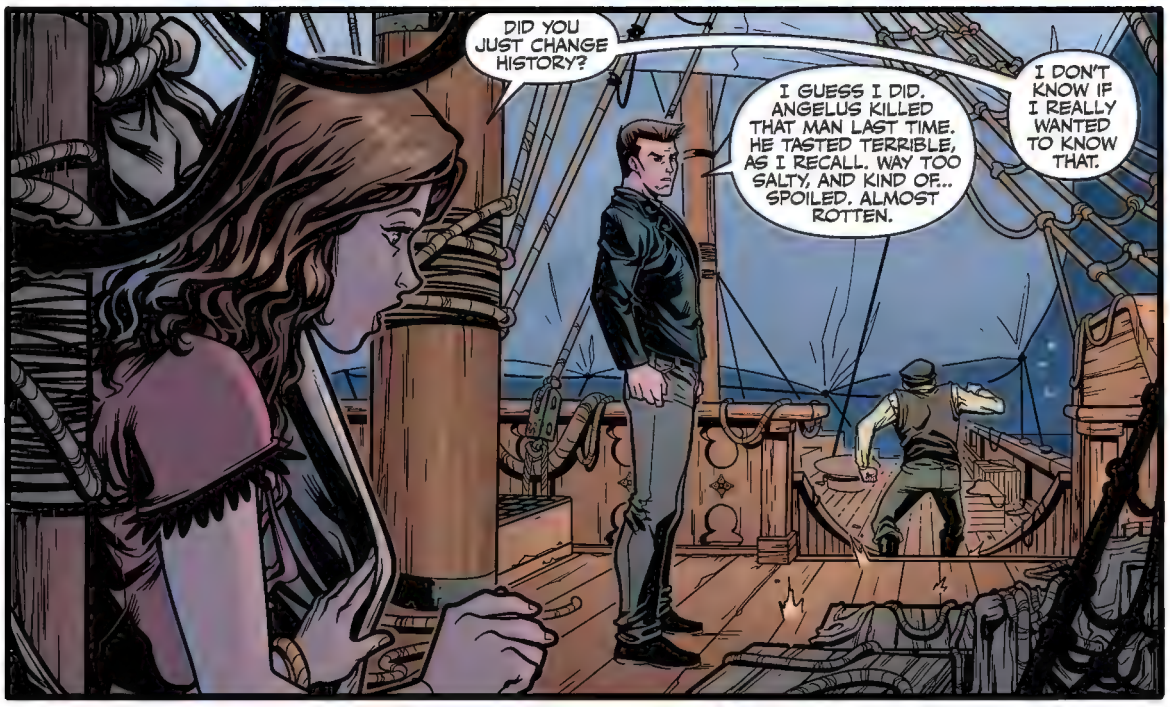
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? I WAS ABOUT TO ADD TO MY JEWELRY COLLECTION.
YOU CAN DO THAT JUST AS EASILY AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH HIM.

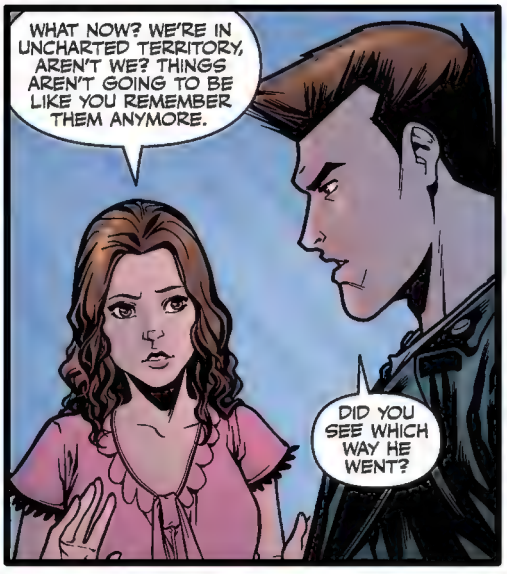
NOT IF WE DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS!


WHAT DO YOU NEED WITH ANOTHER JEWEL ANYWAY?
JEWELS ARE *ALWAYS* BETTER THAN MONEY, YOU KNOW THAT!
ESPECIALLY SOMETHING THIS EXOTIC. THERE MUST BE A TRUTH BEHIND THE RUMORS. DON'T YOU JUST LOVE MYSTERIES? I'M SIMPLY DYING OF CURIOSITY.
BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS!

YOU'LL STAY OUT OF THEIR WAY NOW, RIGHT?
I...HEY, ARE YOU TWO *TWINS?* IS THIS SOME KIND OF BIZARRE--
JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION.

OF COURSE. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.
IN THAT CASE, I *WILL* LET YOU DOWN.


DID YOU JUST CHANGE HISTORY?
I GUESS I DID. ANGELUS KILLED THAT MAN LAST TIME. HE TASTED TERRIBLE, AS I RECALL. WAY TOO SALTY, AND KIND OF... SPOILED. ALMOST ROTTEN.
I DON'T KNOW IF I REALLY WANTED TO KNOW THAT.


WHAT NOW? WE'RE IN UNCHARTED TERRITORY, AREN'T WE? THINGS AREN'T GOING TO BE LIKE YOU REMEMBER THEM ANYMORE.
DID YOU SEE WHICH WAY HE WENT?

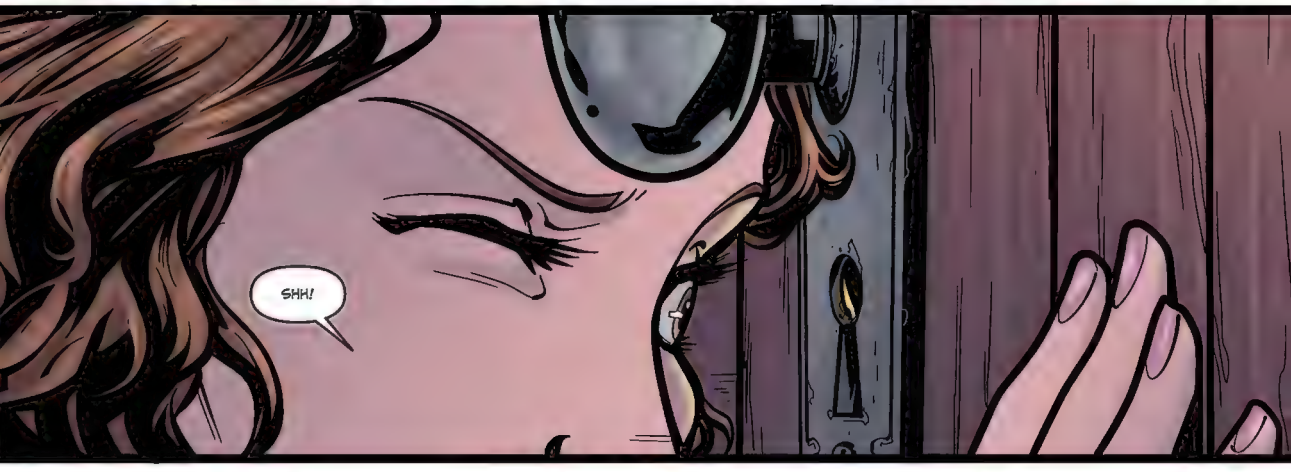
ANGELUS?
NO, THAT MAN.

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF HUMAN NATURE TO KNOW THAT AFTER GETTING A SCARE LIKE THAT HE'S BOUND TO GO CHECK ON HIS TREASURE FIRST THING.

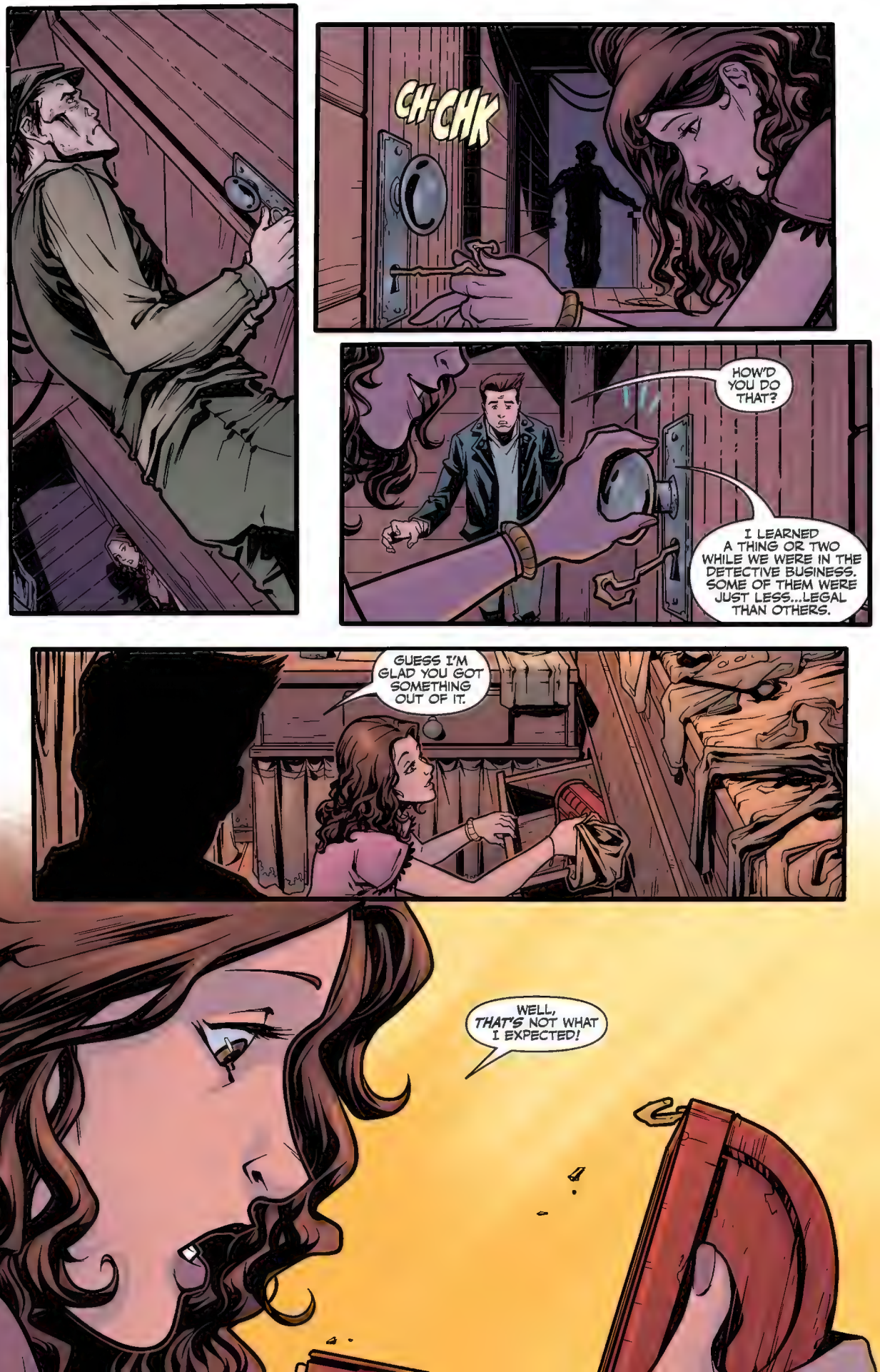
THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
YOU SAID HE'D GO BACK TO HIS CABIN.

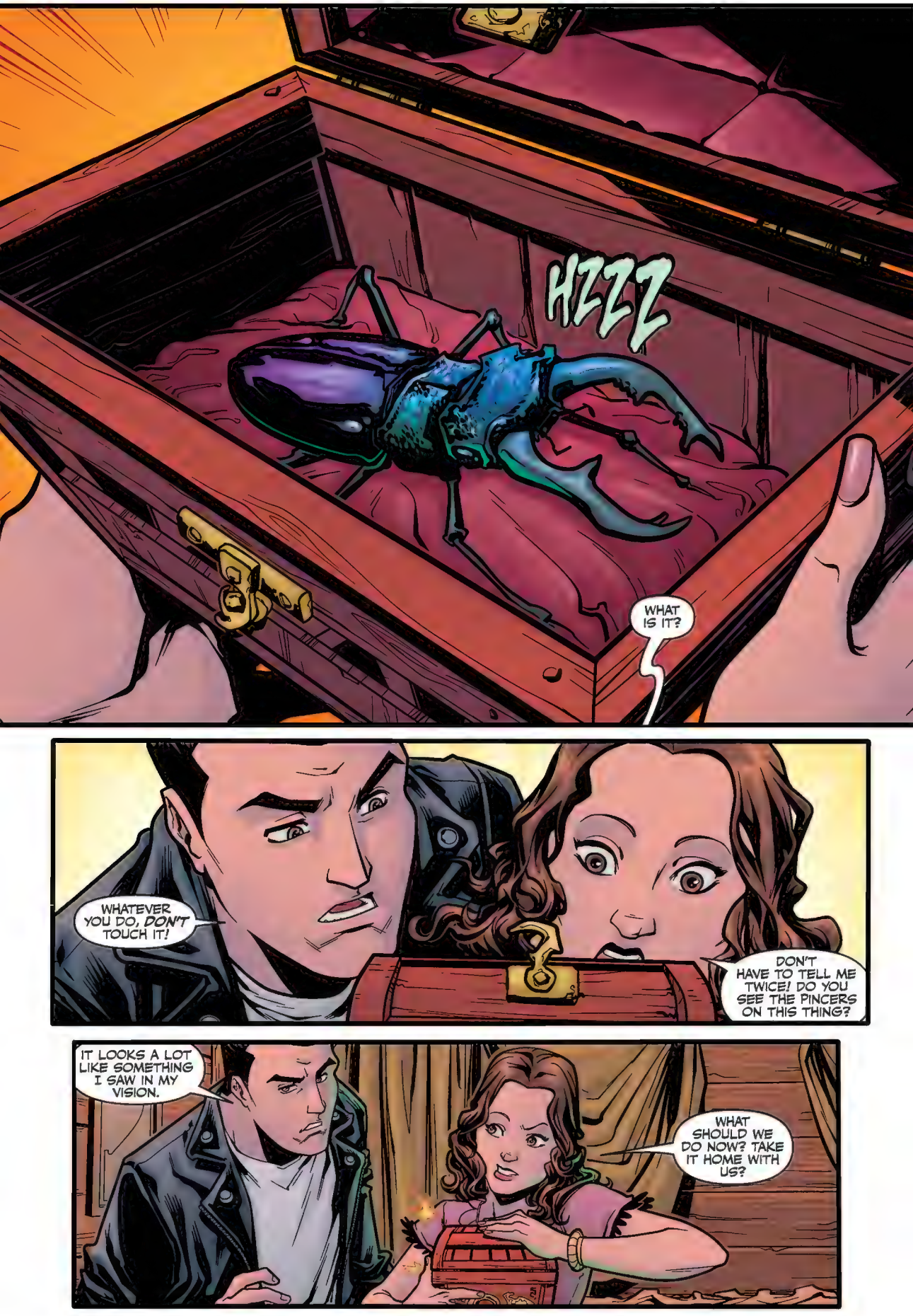
YEAH, BUT THERE'S NO WAY HIS CABIN IS UP HERE WITH THE PASSENGERS.
HE'S PROBABLY NOT EVEN ALLOWED IN THIS PART OF THE SHIP.

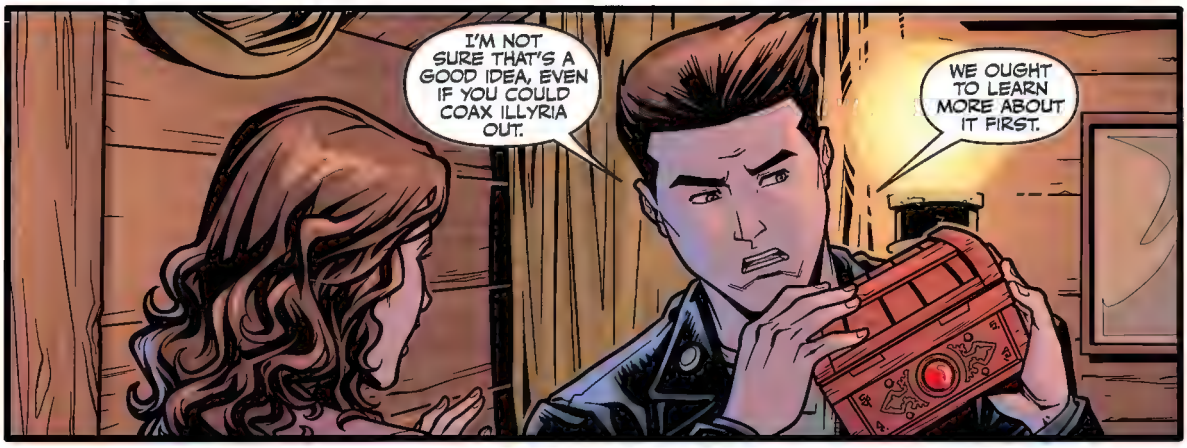
FRED! WAIT!

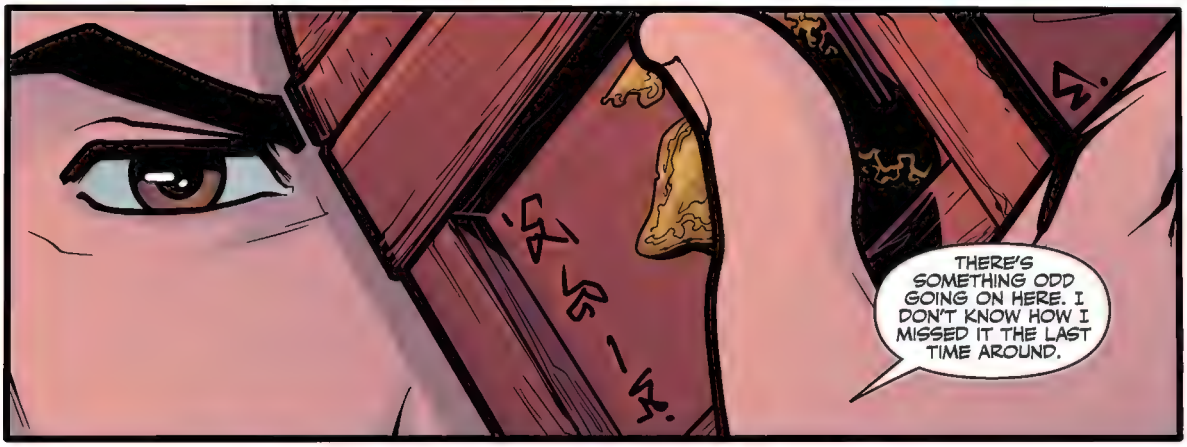

SHH!

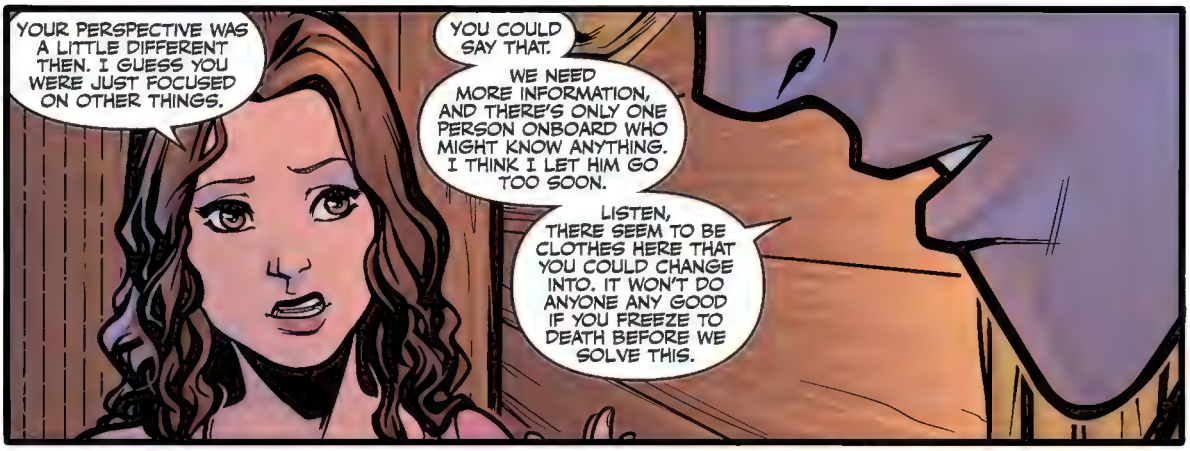
OH, YES, YOU'RE FINE.
I KNEW NO ONE WOULD LOOK FOR YOU HERE. BUT I HAD TO BE SURE, DIDN'T I?
STILL, COULDN'T HURT TO HIDE YOU A LITTLE BETTER, COULD IT?
IT WON'T BE FOR LONG. PROMISE.

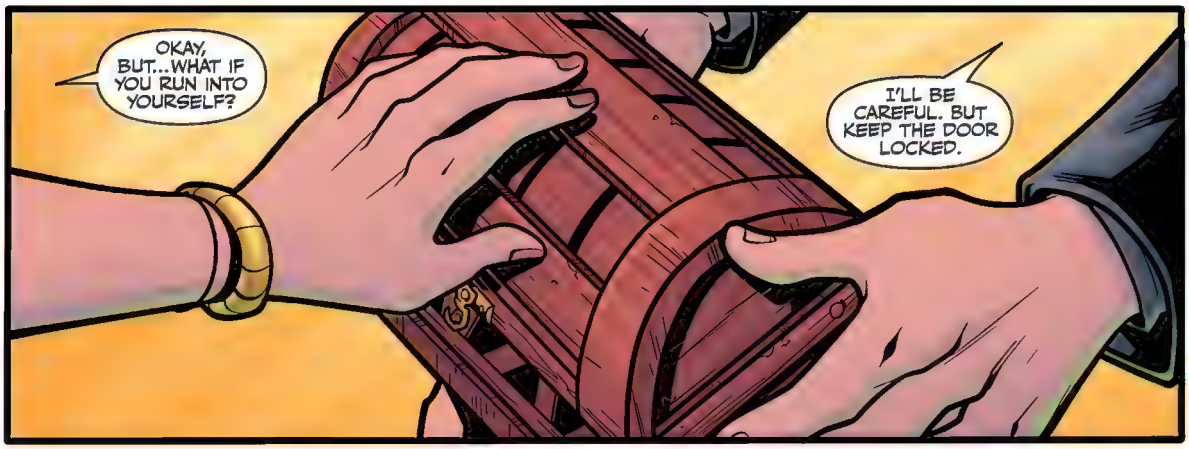

CH-CHK
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
I LEARNED A THING OR TWO WHILE WE WERE IN THE DETECTIVE BUSINESS. SOME OF THEM WERE JUST LESS...LEGAL THAN OTHERS.
GUESS I'M GLAD YOU GOT SOMETHING OUT OF IT.
WELL, THAT'S NOT WHAT I EXPECTED!

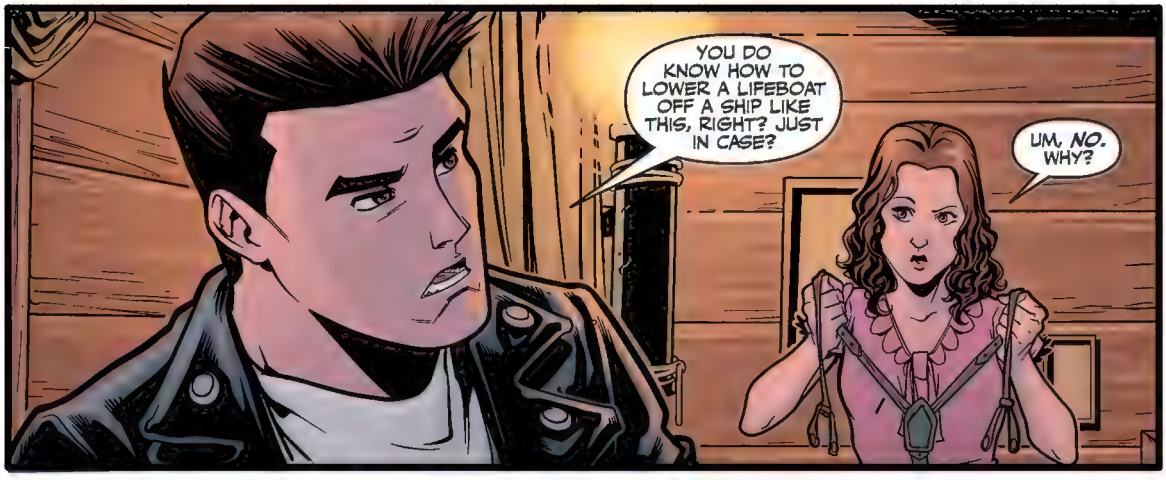

HZZZ
WHAT IS IT?
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TOUCH IT!
DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE! DO YOU SEE THE PINCERS ON THIS THING?
IT LOOKS A LOT LIKE SOMETHING I SAW IN MY VISION.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW? TAKE IT HOME WITH US?


I'M NOT SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, EVEN IF YOU COULD COAX ILLYRIA OUT.
WE OUGHT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT FIRST.


THERE'S SOMETHING ODD GOING ON HERE. I DON'T KNOW HOW I MISSED IT THE LAST TIME AROUND.

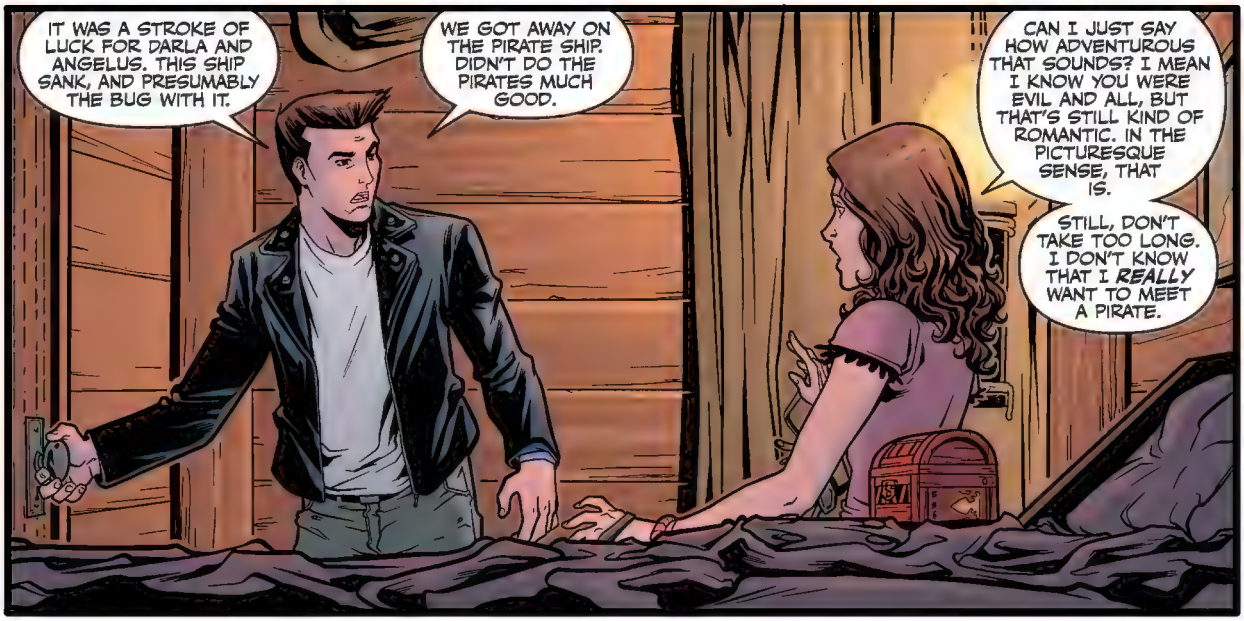

YOUR PERSPECTIVE WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THEN. I GUESS YOU WERE JUST FOCUSED ON OTHER THINGS.
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
WE NEED MORE INFORMATION, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON ONBOARD WHO MIGHT KNOW ANYTHING. I THINK I LET HIM GO TOO SOON.
LISTEN, THERE SEEM TO BE CLOTHES HERE THAT YOU COULD CHANGE INTO. IT WON'T DO ANYONE ANY GOOD IF YOU FREEZE TO DEATH BEFORE WE SOLVE THIS.

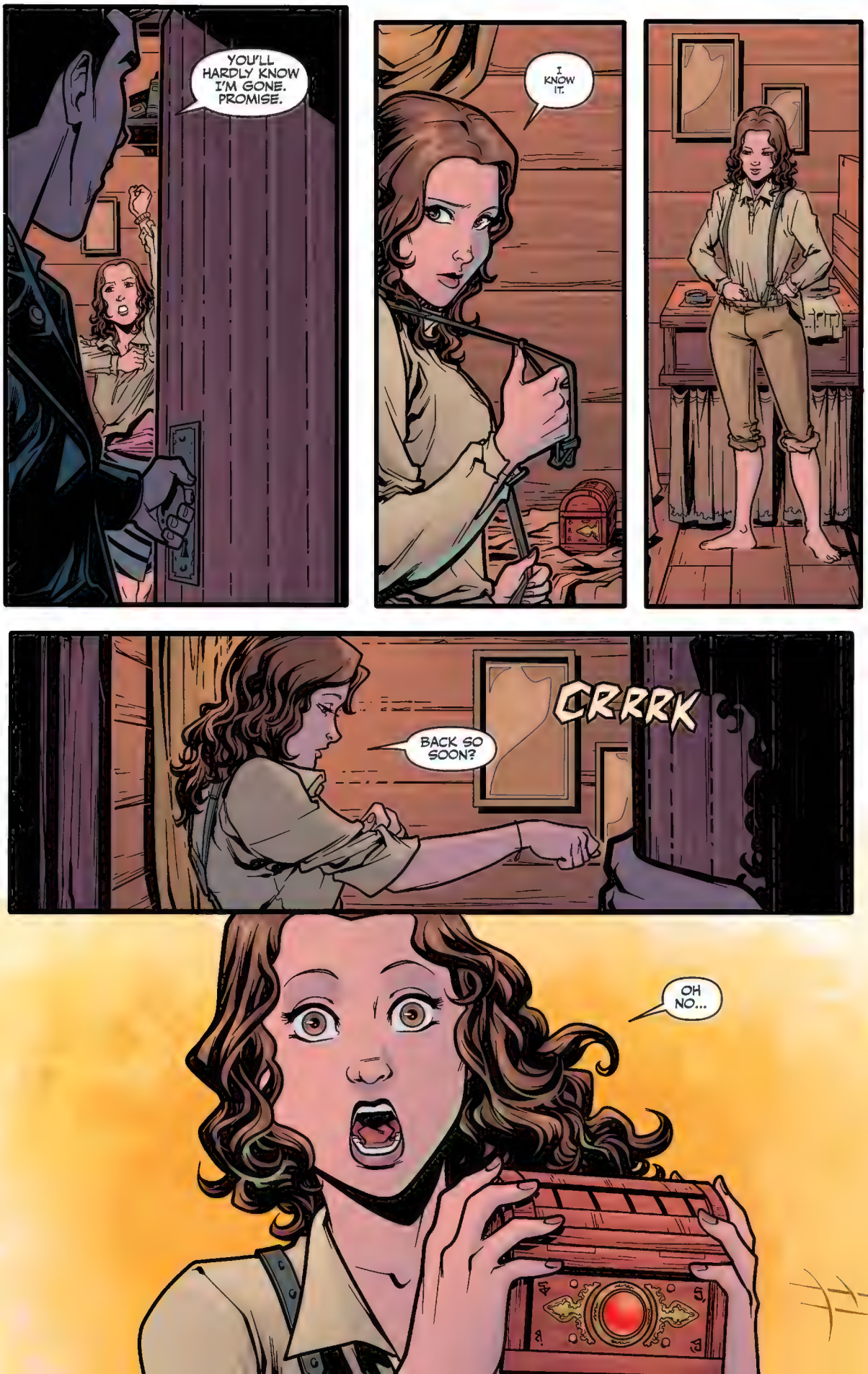

OKAY, BUT...WHAT IF YOU RUN INTO YOURSELF?
I'LL BE CAREFUL. BUT KEEP THE DOOR LOCKED.

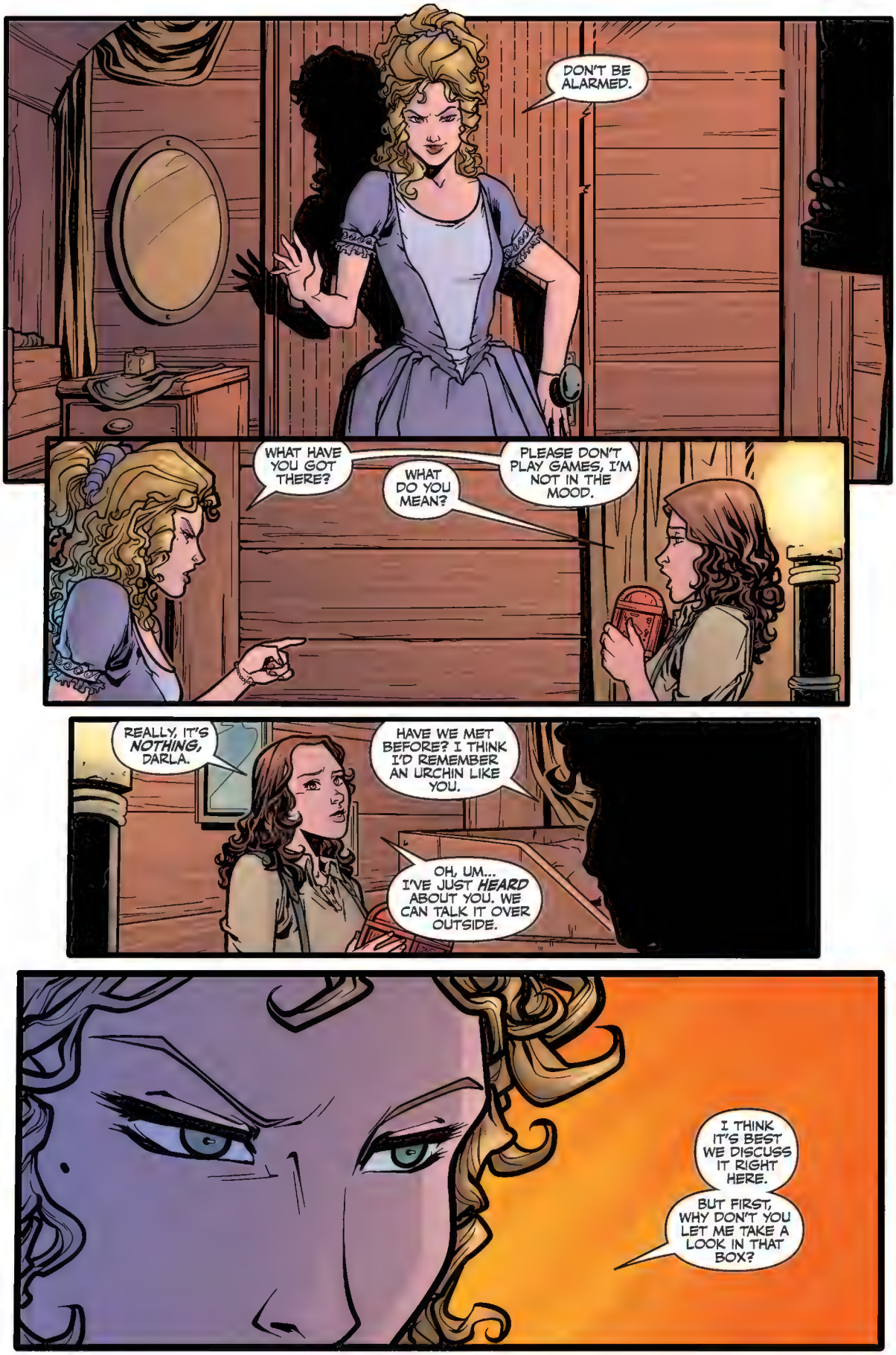

YOU DO KNOW HOW TO LOWER A LIFEBOAT OFF A SHIP LIKE THIS, RIGHT? JUST IN CASE?
UM, NO. WHY?

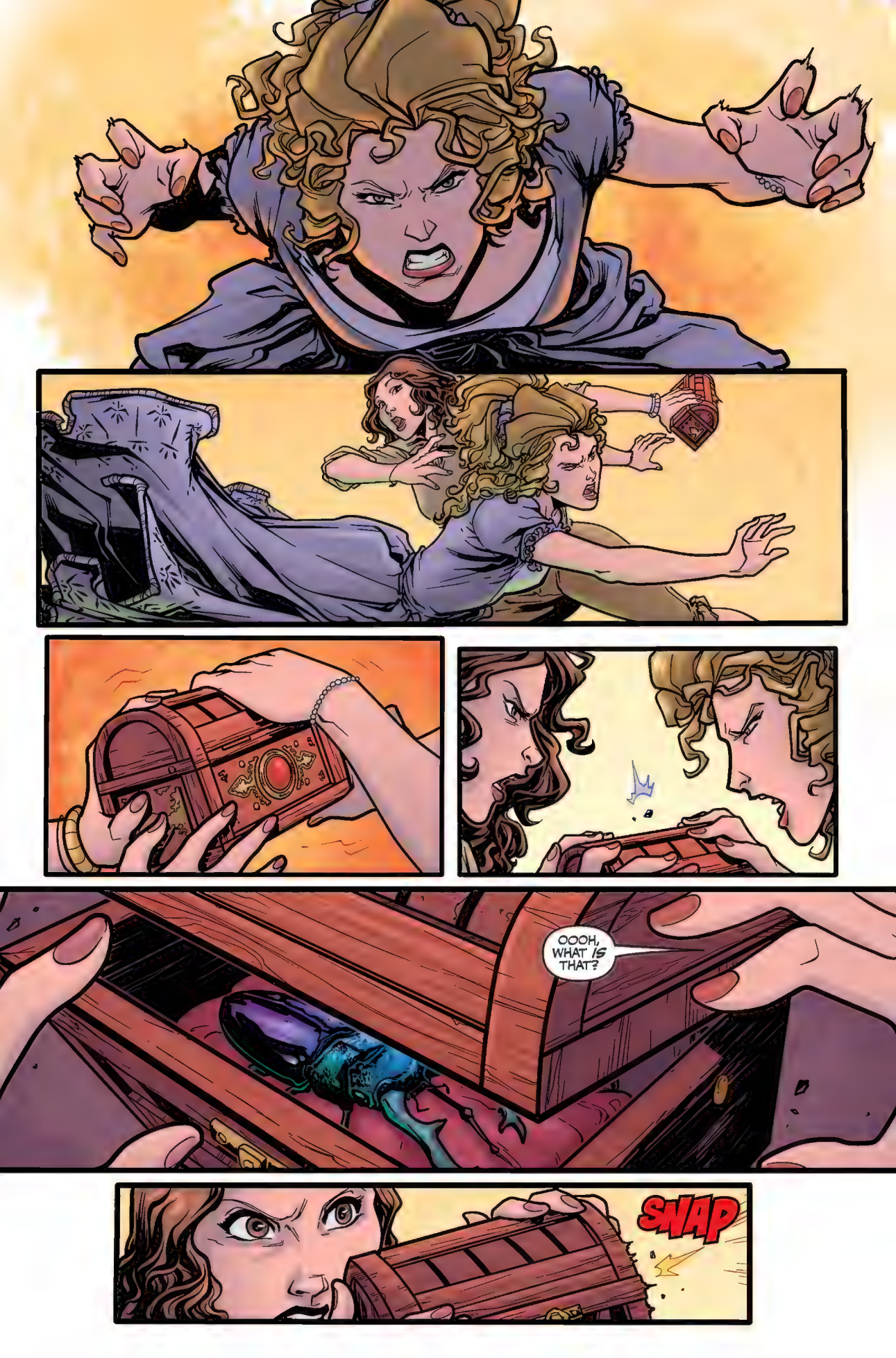
THERE'S GOING TO BE A PIRATE ATTACK TONIGHT.
SO, IF I'M NOT BACK IN TIME, AND YOU FEEL SOMETHING HIT THE SHIP...

A PIRATE ATTACK? SERIOUSLY?
WHAT'D YOU DO? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BUG?


IT WAS A STROKE OF LUCK FOR DARLA AND ANGELUS. THIS SHIP SANK, AND PRESUMABLY THE BUG WITH IT.
WE GOT AWAY ON THE PIRATE SHIP. DIDN'T DO THE PIRATES MUCH GOOD.
CAN I JUST SAY HOW ADVENTUROUS THAT SOUNDS? I MEAN I KNOW YOU WERE EVIL AND ALL, BUT THAT'S STILL KIND OF ROMANTIC. IN THE PICTURESQUE SENSE, THAT IS.
STILL, DON'T TAKE TOO LONG. I DON'T KNOW THAT I REALLY WANT TO MEET A PIRATE.


YOU'LL HARDLY KNOW I'M GONE. PROMISE.
I KNOW IT.
CRRRK
BACK SO SOON?
OH NO...


DON'T BE ALARMED.
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
PLEASE DON'T PLAY GAMES, I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.
REALLY, IT'S NOTHING, DARLA.
HAVE WE MET BEFORE? I THINK I'D REMEMBER AN URCHIN LIKE YOU.
OH, UM... I'VE JUST HEARD ABOUT YOU. WE CAN TALK IT OVER OUTSIDE.
I THINK IT'S BEST WE DISCUSS IT RIGHT HERE.
BUT FIRST, WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TAKE A LOOK IN THAT BOX?

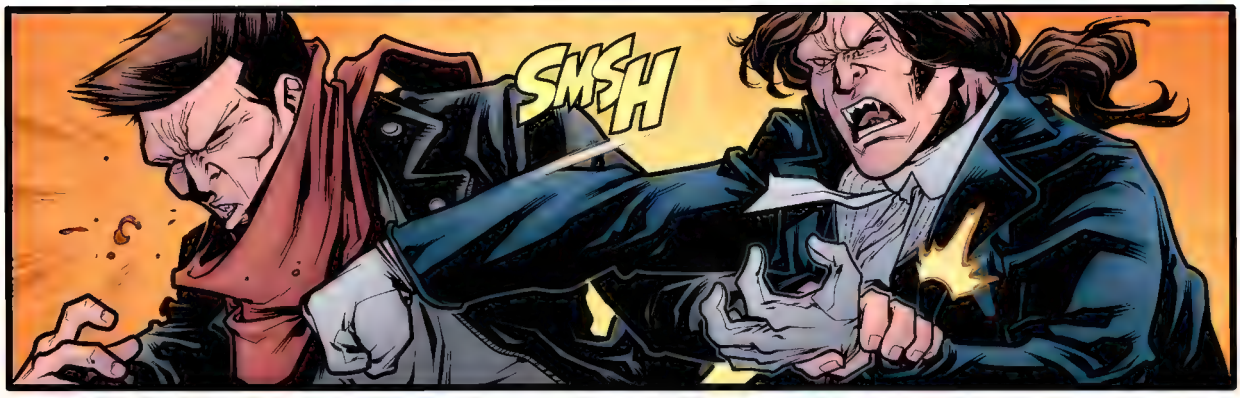

OOOH, WHAT *IS* THAT?
SNAP

WHAT WAS THAT?
I... I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
OH, YOU'VE FOUND US.
DARLA? WHAT'S GOING ON?
ANGEL, THANK GOOD--
--OH...
ANGEL?

I LOVE IT WHEN THEY EXPECT SOMEONE TO SAVE THEM.
IT'S ALMOST SWEET, IN A WAY.
I MEAN, IMAGINE EXPECTING SOME RIGHTEOUS SAVIOR...
TIME AND TIDE
PART TWO
...AND GETTING ME INSTEAD.
HURRY UP AND DISPATCH THE GIRL.
YOU WOULDN'T RATHER DO THE HONORS? I THOUGHT WHOEVER DISCOVERED A STOWAWAY GOT TO EAT THEM.
YOU DO IT, ANGELUS, AND BE QUICK. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT MAKES ME UNEASY.
YOU MEAN BESIDES HER LACK OF PROPRIETY?
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING, GIRL?
THIS REALLY ISN'T A GOOD IDEA, YOU KNOW. IF YOU KILL ME NOW THERE WILL BE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS...

OH? SUCH AS?
I THINK SHE MEANS ME.
TWO STOWAWAYS? AND I THOUGHT WE'D BOOKED ON A WELL-RUN SHIP. I'VE A MIND TO ASK FOR OUR MONEY BACK.
AT LEAST THESE SEEM MORE SPORTING THAN THE DECKHANDS.
GET OUT OF HERE, FRED!

BE CAREFUL. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE.
WHO ARE YOU?


SMSH

WHAT-- ANGELUS, HE HAS YOUR FACE!
GO AFTER THE GIRL!

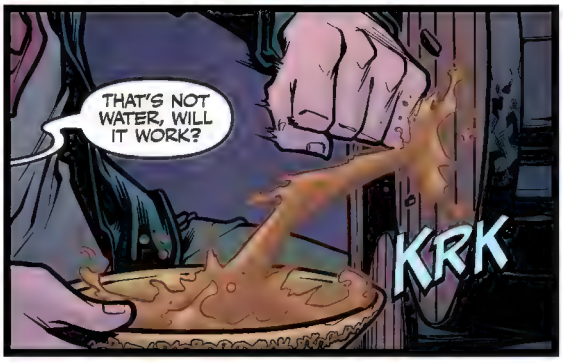
WHAT'S GOING ON?
STOP!
OOF!
SORRY!
STUPID BEAST! HOW DARE YOU GET IN MY WAY!
SPLUTCH
OH MY GOD, YOU TASTE HORRIBLE!
UGH, I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? SHE KNOWS ABOUT US AND YOU LET HER GO!
UUU...
DARLA, WHAT HAPPENED?

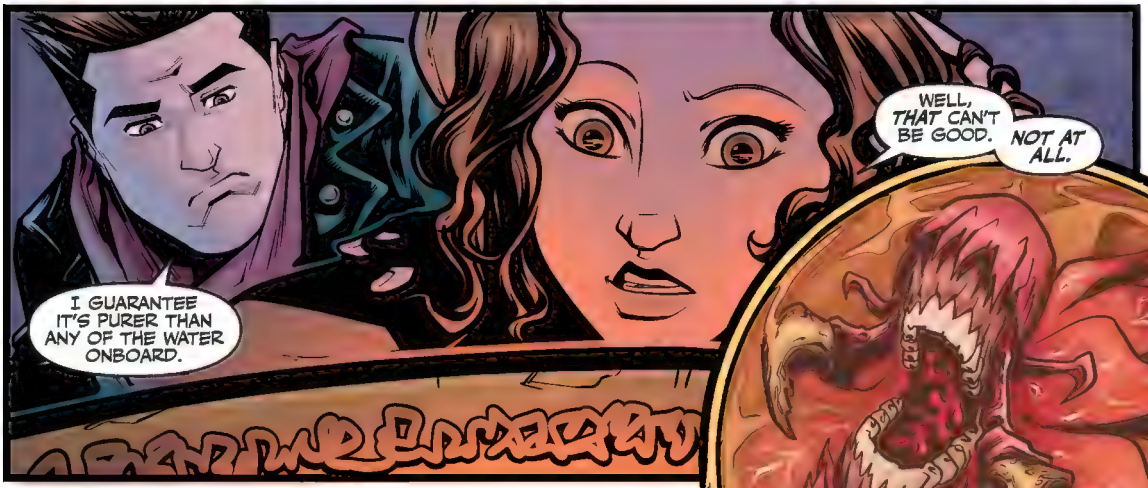
FRED?
FRED, ARE YOU DOWN HERE?
ANGEL! OVER HERE.
LOOKS LIKE I FOUND US ANOTHER CAVE.
AS TALENTS GO, I'VE SEEN WORSE.
YOU STILL HAVE THAT BUG?
SAFE AND SOUND.

OO.
HEY, YOU OKAY?
UH... YEAH.
IT'S JUST THAT I CAN FEEL MY MEMORIES... CHANGING.
IT'S LIKE I HAVE TWO SETS NOW, SIDE BY SIDE. WEIRD SENSATION.
BUT I'M OKAY. *REALLY.*
IF YOU SAY SO...
WHAT IS ALL OF THIS DOWN HERE? DO YOU REMEMBER IF THERE'S ANYTHING HERE TO HELP US?

IT'S JUST WHISKEY AND TEA, I THINK. THESE FAST SHIPS USUALLY ONLY CARRIED HIGH TICKET CARGO--ALCOHOL, CAFFEINE... PEOPLE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* WOULD HELP US. WE *HAVE* THE BUG. NOW WHAT?
MAYBE WE *SQUISH* IT? THEN AGAIN, MAYBE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO *FEED* IT. OR TAKE IT SOMEWHERE?
YOU THINK THE AUNTS HAVE SOME ADVICE?

I WAS THINKING WE COULD TAKE A LOOK AT THAT ODD FLOWER. SEE IF IT'S DIFFERENT. IF IT IS, WE MUST BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
THEN-- SOMEHOW-- WE FIND OUT WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THIS BEETLE.


THAT'S NOT WATER, WILL IT WORK?
KRK


I GUARANTEE IT'S PURER THAN ANY OF THE WATER ONBOARD.
WELL, *THAT* CAN'T BE GOOD.
NOT AT ALL.

GUESS WE'RE NOT ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
AGREED. MAYBE IF WE--
KA-DNK
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT CALLED ME. WHERE IS IT?
I THINK I'VE UNDERESTIMATED YOU.
GIVE IT TO ME!
OH!
ANGEL...HE DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT.
I KNOW. HE DOESN'T SMELL RIGHT EITHER. KIND OF...CHITINOUS.
GIVE ME THE BOX!
STAY AWAY-- OOP!

WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN HERE? I THOUGHT I HEARD--
--STOWAWAYS! THE CAPTAIN ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THIS.
HELP ME LOOK, IT'S MISSING!
WHAT'S MISSING?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE.
WHAT--

OW.
NOW, WHERE...
HUH.
THAT WAS INTERESTING.
OH, YES.
DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE, *GRAB* ONE OF THEM!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WHAT DO YOU---
AAH!
CHAK

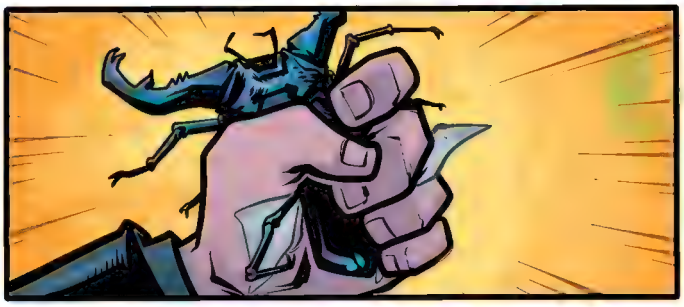
WHOA.
DID YOU SEE THAT?!
AND I'M THE ONE WHO LET IT LOOSE. GOOD WORK, FRED.
NOT YOUR FAULT. BUT I THINK WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA NOW WHY THE BEETLE WAS LOCKED IN A BOX.
WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET, THEN?
STAY BACK! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
IT'S NOT SAFE!
NO, COME IN. HELP US OUT.
WHAT IS THIS?
GO BACK! GET OUT OF HERE!
THIS ISN'T--
OOF!
CRR-AKKK

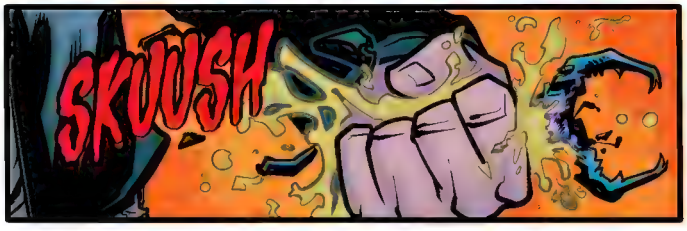
COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET TOPSIDE!
WHAT WAS THAT?
HUH?
URK!

LET'S GO!

CHAK
CHAK

HZZZ




SKUUSH

IT WENT RIGHT BY YOU TO GET TO ME? I'D BE FLATTERED, BUT I THINK I'M JUST GROSSED OUT.
I'M ALREADY DEAD. IT CAN'T ZOMBIFY ME.
CLIMB FASTER, FRED. BUT *BE CAREFUL* WHEN WE GET ON DECK.
WHY?

OH.
THAT'S WHY.

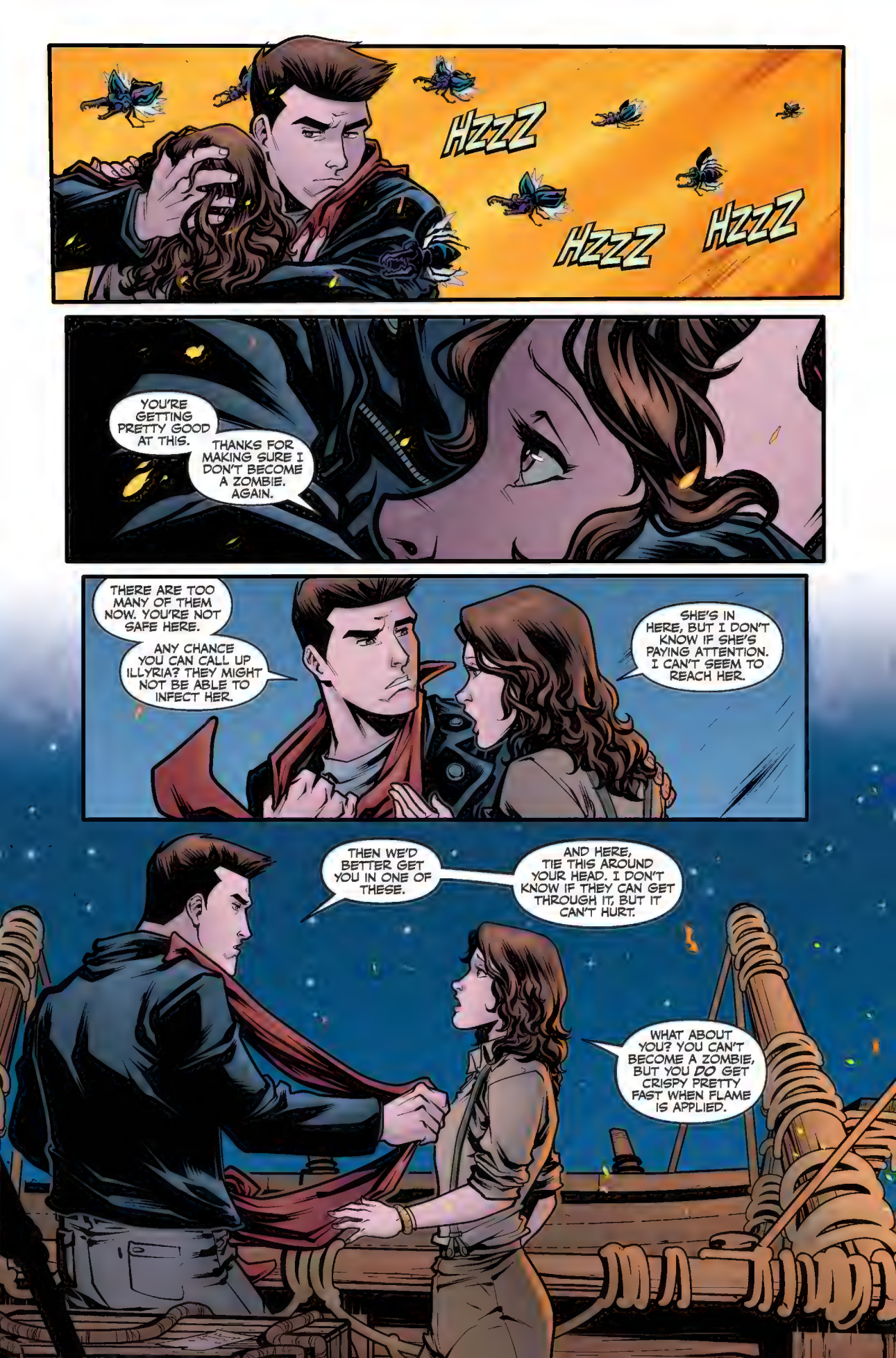
KRAK
FIRE! SOMEONE PUT IT OUT!
ARE THEY AFTER THE BEETLE TOO?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE. BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF PIRATES IN THESE WATERS. THEY COULD BE AFTER THE WHISKEY.
WHAT DO WE DO?
WHAT DID *YOU* DO LAST TIME?
DARLA AND I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO BOARD THE OTHER SHIP WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WAS OCCUPIED. THIS ONE SANK WHILE WE DINED ON THE PIRATES' COOK.
WELL *THAT'S* A TERRIBLE PLAN. *WE'LL* TRY SOMETHING ELSE.

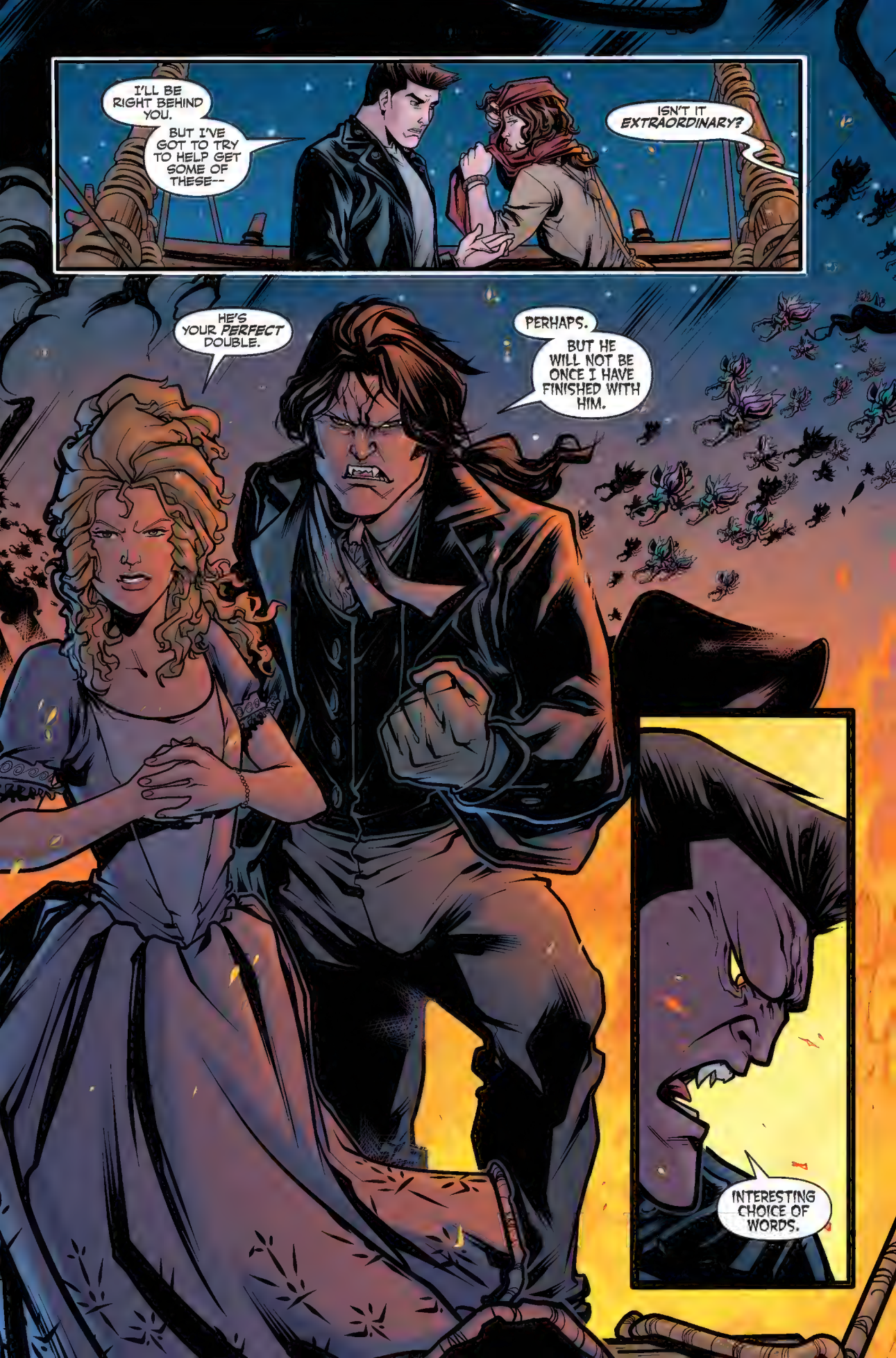
YOU SAY IT SANK LAST TIME?
YES, PRETTY QUICKLY TOO. I THINK SOME OF THAT WHISKEY IN THE HOLD CAUGHT FIRE AND--
WE'VE GOT TO GET EVERYONE TO ABANDON SHIP!
RIGHT, BECAUSE THIS ISN'T JUST THE PAST. IT MATTERS NOW...
I HAVE TO STOP USING MY MEMORIES AS A GUIDE AND START TREATING THIS MORE LIKE--
ABANDON SHIP! EVERYONE, ABANDON SHIP!
PREP THE LIFEBOATS!
ABANDON SHIP!
WHO DARES YELL MUTINY AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
STAY AT YOUR POSTS! WE'LL WIN THIS YET!
CAPTAIN, YOU KNOW ME, RIGHT? I PAID A LOT FOR THIS PASSAGE. YOU'VE GOT TO GET THE LIFEBOATS IN THE WATER.
YOU'RE THE UNTRUSTWORTHY LOUT THAT'S BROUGHT ME NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK SINCE YOU STEPPED ABOARD. HOW ABOUT I PUT YOU OVERBOARD WITHOUT A LIFEBOAT?
EITHER THAT, OR GET OUT OF MY WAY!

UUA...

CHAK

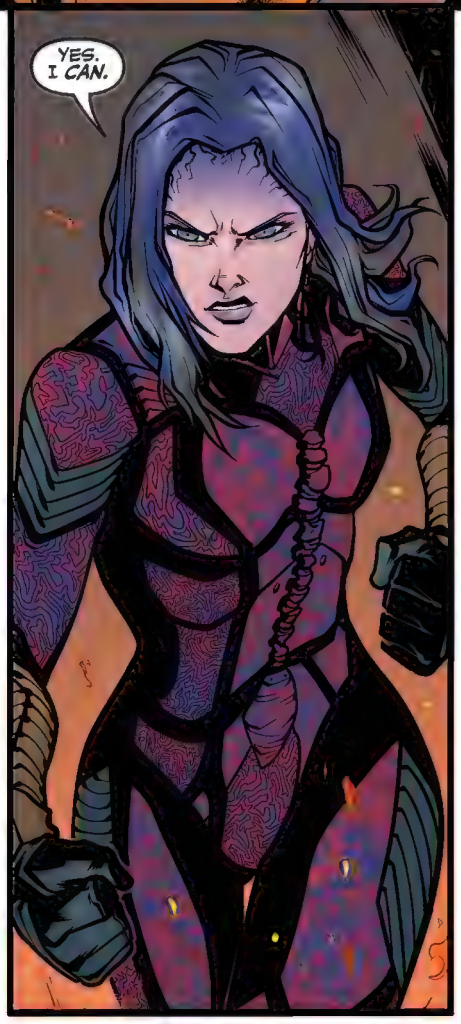
HZZZ
HZZZ
HZZZ

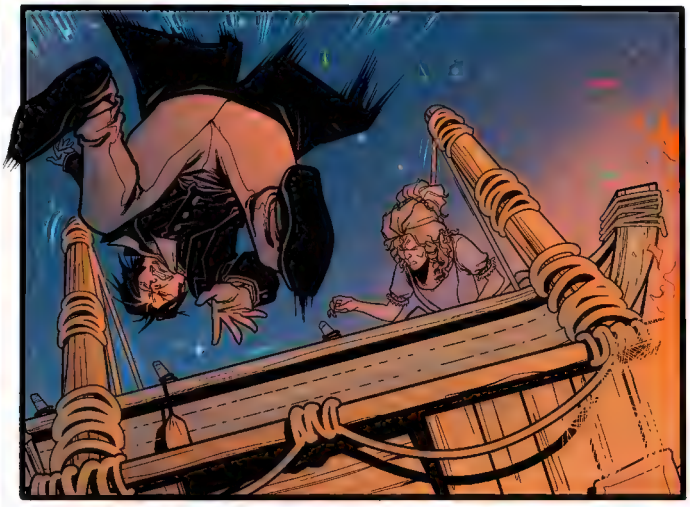

HZZZ
HZZZ
HZZZ
YOU'RE GETTING PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.
THANKS FOR MAKING SURE I DON'T BECOME A ZOMBIE. AGAIN.
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM NOW. YOU'RE NOT SAFE HERE.
ANY CHANCE YOU CAN CALL UP ILLYRIA? THEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO INFECT HER.
SHE'S IN HERE, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'S PAYING ATTENTION. I CAN'T SEEM TO REACH HER.
THEN WE'D BETTER GET YOU IN ONE OF THESE.
AND HERE, TIE THIS AROUND YOUR HEAD. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY CAN GET THROUGH IT, BUT IT CAN'T HURT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU CAN'T BECOME A ZOMBIE, BUT YOU DO GET CRISPY PRETTY FAST WHEN FLAME IS APPLIED.

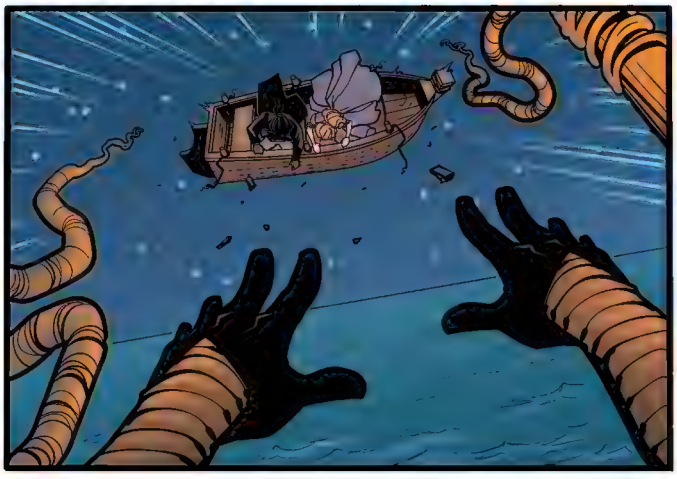

I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY TO HELP GET SOME OF THESE--
ISN'T IT *EXTRAORDINARY?*
HE'S YOUR *PERFECT* DOUBLE.
PERHAPS.
BUT HE WILL NOT BE ONCE I HAVE FINISHED WITH HIM.
INTERESTING CHOICE OF WORDS.

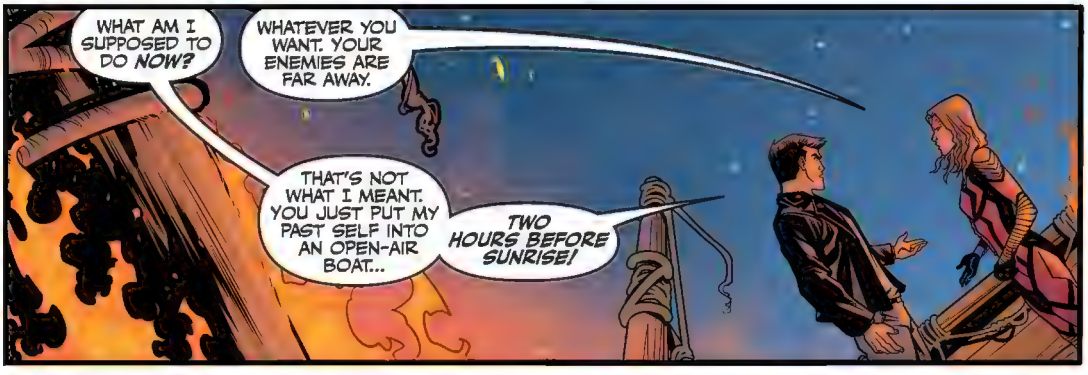
THE RESEMBLANCE IS UNCANNY.
TRULY?
DO YOU MOCK ME, DARLA? HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ME WITH SUCH A WORRIED LOOK ON MY FACE?
THE COMPARISON ISN'T EXACTLY MAKING ME FEEL BETTER ABOUT MYSELF EITHER.

FRED, GET IN THE LIFEBOAT.
PERHAPS WE BOTH SHOULD.
HOW ABOUT IT? SHARE A LITTLE SPACE WITH ME?
LEAVE HER ALONE!
IT'S ME YOU WANT TO TANGLE WITH!
OR... I GUESS YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.


YES.
I CAN.





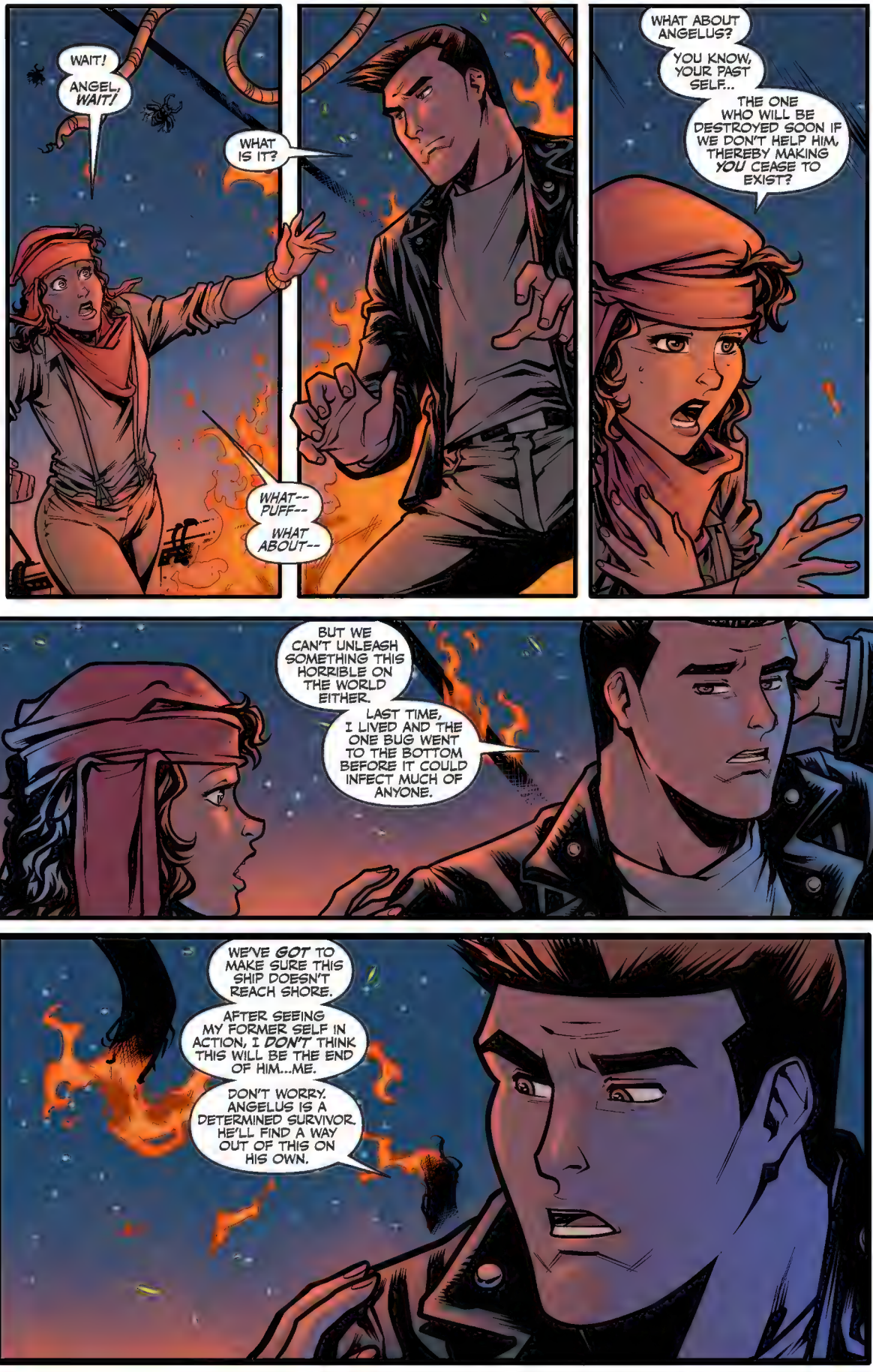

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
WHATEVER YOU WANT. YOUR ENEMIES ARE FAR AWAY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. YOU JUST PUT MY PAST SELF INTO AN OPEN-AIR BOAT...
TWO HOURS BEFORE SUNRISE!

WOULD IT HAVE SUITED YOU BETTER HAD I ALLOWED MY HOST TO BECOME A VAMPIRE?
I WOULDN'T HAVE LET THAT HAPPEN.
WHAT MAKES YOU SO CERTAIN YOU COULD STOP IT?
YOU WERE NOT FIGHTING SOME SUBURBAN-BRED UNDEAD SCHOOLBOY. YOU WERE FIGHTING YOUR EQUAL. LITERALLY.
I'M MORE EXPERIENCED THAN--
PERHAPS. BUT DO YOU REALLY WANT TO RISK THAT IT COULD BE ME WHO ENDS UP WITHOUT A SOUL?
YOU WITHOUT...
I...WOULD THAT EVEN BE POSSIBLE?
TIME AND TIDE
PART THREE

YOU COULDN'T--
WOULD YOU *PLEASE* STOP DOING THAT SO SUDDENLY?
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN STOP IT.
NOT *USUALLY*, ANYWAYS.
BUT LET'S NOT ARGUE, OKAY?
THE *ACTUAL* PROBLEM IS THAT THE SUN WILL BE UP SOON, AND YOUR PAST SELF IS OUT THERE ABOUT TO GET FLASH FRIED IN AN OPEN BOAT.
YOU AND ILLYRIA CAN DISCUSS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN DISASTER SCENARIOS AND ALL THAT GOOD STUFF *AFTER* WE RESCUE YOU.
THAT IS A PROBLEM...

SKUSH
BUT THIS IS A WORSE ONE.
SLISH
CHAK
YOU MIGHT HAVE A POINT...

CAREFUL!
OH!
SMELL THAT?
BURNING TEA LEAVES? YOU'D THINK THEY'D SMELL GOOD, BUT I GUESS THAT'S TOO OPTIMISTIC...
OR DO YOU MEAN THE BURNING ZOMBIE FLESH? BECAUSE THAT'S NOT VERY NICE EITHER.
NO, NOT THAT...
WE'VE GOT TO TURN THIS THING AROUND!
THE FIGHT?
THE SHIP!
WE'RE HEADED BACK TOWARD LAND! IF WE REACH A HARBOR THESE BUGS COULD INFECT A WHOLE CITY!


WAIT!
ANGEL, WAIT!
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT-- PUFF--
WHAT ABOUT--
WHAT ABOUT ANGELUS?
YOU KNOW, YOUR PAST SELF...
THE ONE WHO WILL BE DESTROYED SOON IF WE DON'T HELP HIM, THEREBY MAKING YOU CEASE TO EXIST?
BUT WE CAN'T UNLEASH SOMETHING THIS HORRIBLE ON THE WORLD EITHER.
LAST TIME, I LIVED AND THE ONE BUG WENT TO THE BOTTOM BEFORE IT COULD INFECT MUCH OF ANYONE.
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THIS SHIP DOESN'T REACH SHORE.
AFTER SEEING MY FORMER SELF IN ACTION, I DON'T THINK THIS WILL BE THE END OF HIM...ME.
DON'T WORRY. ANGELUS IS A DETERMINED SURVIVOR. HE'LL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS ON HIS OWN.

AND SO WILL--
HEY, YOU!
ANGELUS, IS IT? YOU LOOK...
NEVER MIND. ARE YOU GOOD IN A FIGHT?
SOMETIMES I FLATTER MYSELF TO THINK SO.
YOU'LL GET NONE OF THAT HERE.
COME ON, YOU'VE BEEN CONSCRIPTED! WE'VE GOT A HELL OF A BATTLE ON OUR HANDS IF WE WANT TO SAVE THE GALENE.
AND AS FOR YOU, PIRATE WENCH...
BEST GET THE HELL OFF MY SHIP. WOMEN AT SEA IS BAD LUCK. WISH I'D PUT MORE STOCK IN THAT SOONER, TOO.

MR. ANGELUS, THIS CREWMAN HAS GONE MAD. SOMEONE HAS TO HOLD HIM OFF ME IF I HAVE ANY HOPE OF RIGHTING--
ANGEL, PLEASE.
BAP
IF YOU WOULD, MR. ANGEL?
OUR TIME HAS COME. WHEN WE REACH OUR NEW HOME WE WILL SWARM BEYOND COUNTING.
YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP DESTINY?
IT'S WORTH A SHOT.

CAPTAIN, NO!
DON'T LET THEM--
--TOUCH YOUR FACE...

UUUH...

FRED!
YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE THE WHEEL!

...
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT, JUST DO IT!

CHAK

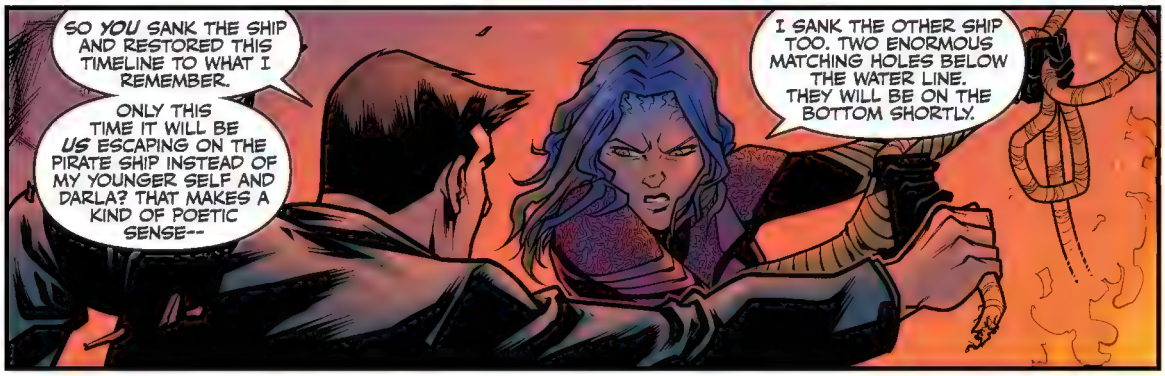
OH NO.
UGH!
GET OFF OF ME!
WHCK

WELL...

THAT'S NOT GOOD.
FRED? TIME TO MAKE A PLAN B!
FRED?

FRED!
FRED, WHERE ARE YOU?
WHHM

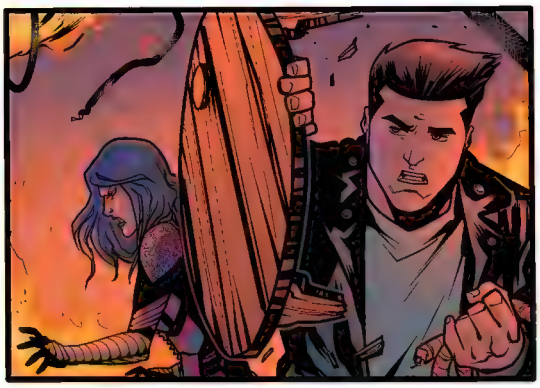
HELLO, ILLYRIA.
I TAKE IT THIS IS YOUR DOING.
SOMEONE NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING.

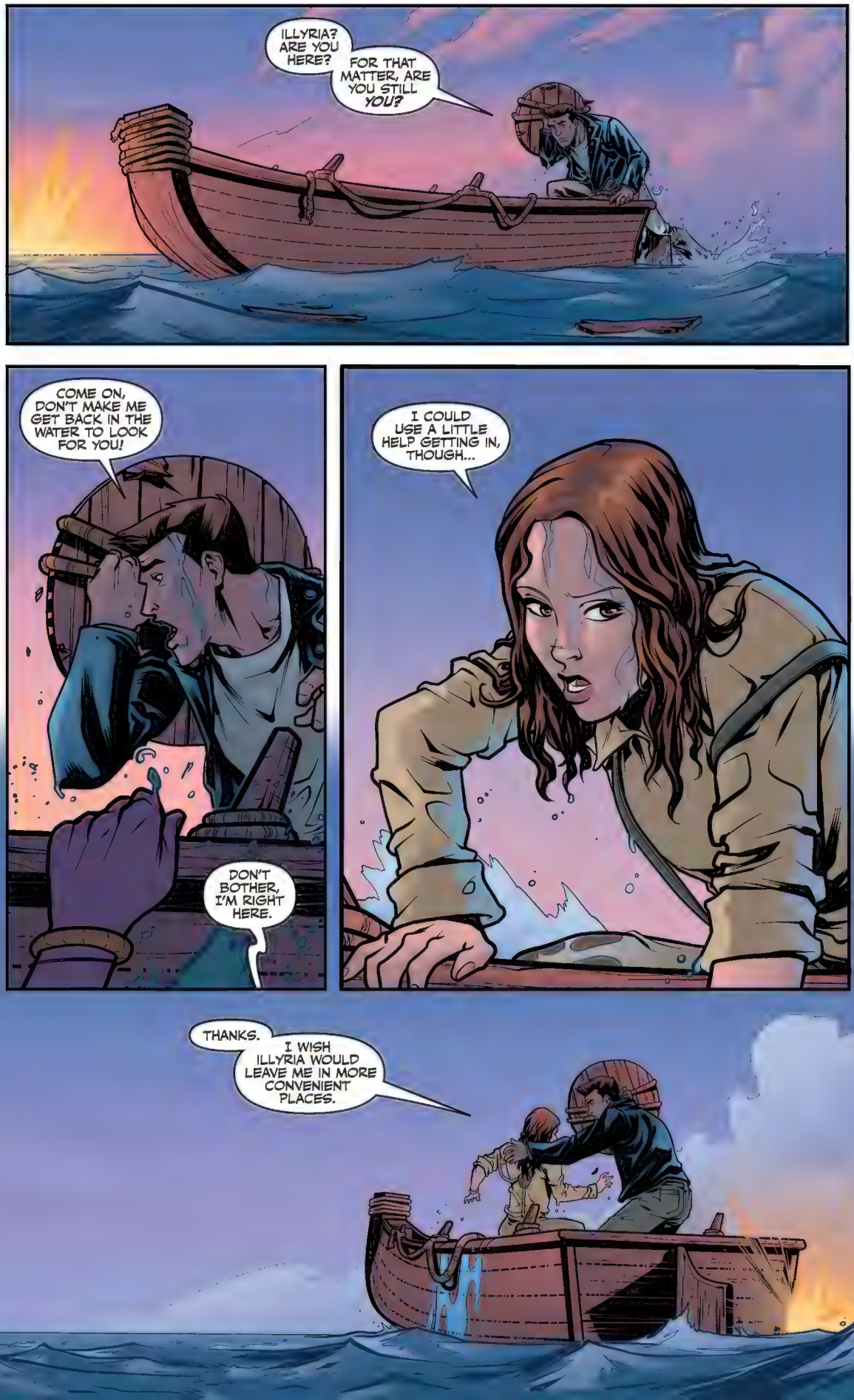

SO YOU SANK THE SHIP AND RESTORED THIS TIMELINE TO WHAT I REMEMBER.
ONLY THIS TIME IT WILL BE US ESCAPING ON THE PIRATE SHIP INSTEAD OF MY YOUNGER SELF AND DARLA? THAT MAKES A KIND OF POETIC SENSE--
I SANK THE OTHER SHIP TOO. TWO ENORMOUS MATCHING HOLES BELOW THE WATER LINE. THEY WILL BE ON THE BOTTOM SHORTLY.

YOU WHAT?
WITH THE SUN RISING? I APPRECIATE DROWNING THE BUGS, BUT I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO LIVE TO TELL THE TALE!

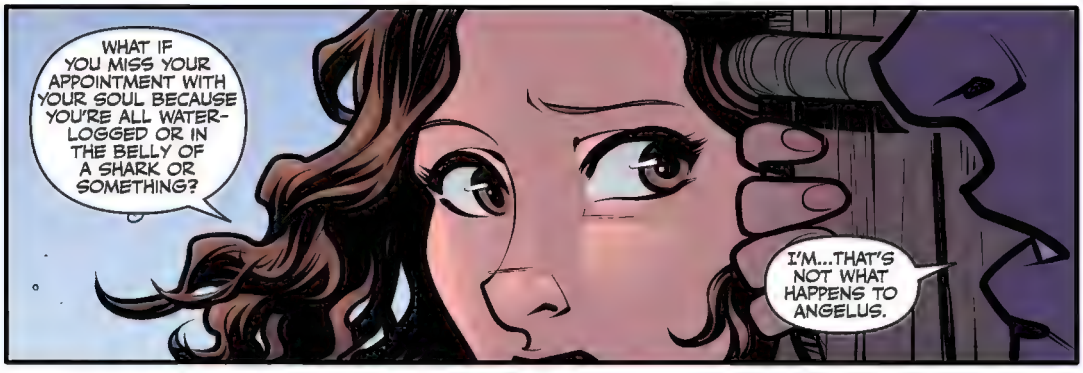
YOU CREDIT ANGELUS WITH THE WITS TO SURVIVE THIS, BUT NOT YOURSELF?
THAT HARDLY SEEMS FAIR. ARE YOU NOT THE SAME PERSON, IN MANY WAYS?
SOUL OR NO SOUL, YOU ARE A SURVIVOR. ONLY YOUR REASONS FOR WANTING TO LIVE HAVE CHANGED.
BESIDES...

"I'VE GOT A PLAN."

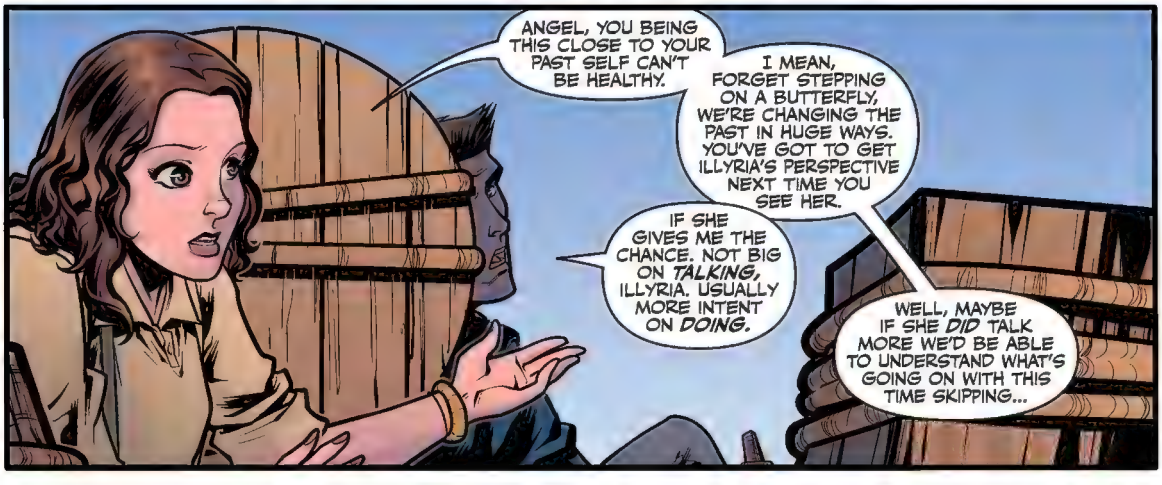



ILLYRIA? ARE YOU HERE?
FOR THAT MATTER, ARE YOU STILL *YOU?*
COME ON, DON'T MAKE ME GET BACK IN THE WATER TO LOOK FOR YOU!
DON'T BOTHER, I'M RIGHT HERE.
I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP GETTING IN, THOUGH...
THANKS.
I WISH ILLYRIA WOULD LEAVE ME IN MORE CONVENIENT PLACES.

ANGEL, ARE YOU *SURE* ANGELUS AND DARLA ARE OKAY?
IT'S PROBABLY A LONG WAY TO LAND. AND NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT, BUT...


WHAT IF YOU MISS YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR SOUL BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL WATER-LOGGED OR IN THE BELLY OF A SHARK OR SOMETHING?
I'M...THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENS TO ANGELUS.

YOU *REMEMBER?*
YEAH. IT FEELS ODD, BUT I KEEP GETTING FLASHES AS IT HAPPENS TO HIM. TO ME.
LIKE, RIGHT NOW...THEY'VE FLIPPED THE BOAT, AND THEY'RE UNDER IT.


ANGEL, YOU BEING THIS CLOSE TO YOUR PAST SELF CAN'T BE HEALTHY.
I MEAN, FORGET STEPPING ON A BUTTERFLY, WE'RE CHANGING THE PAST IN HUGE WAYS. YOU'VE GOT TO GET ILLYRIA'S PERSPECTIVE NEXT TIME YOU SEE HER.
IF SHE GIVES ME THE CHANCE. NOT BIG ON *TALKING,* ILLYRIA. USUALLY MORE INTENT ON *DOING.*
WELL, MAYBE IF SHE *DID* TALK MORE WE'D BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS TIME SKIPPING...

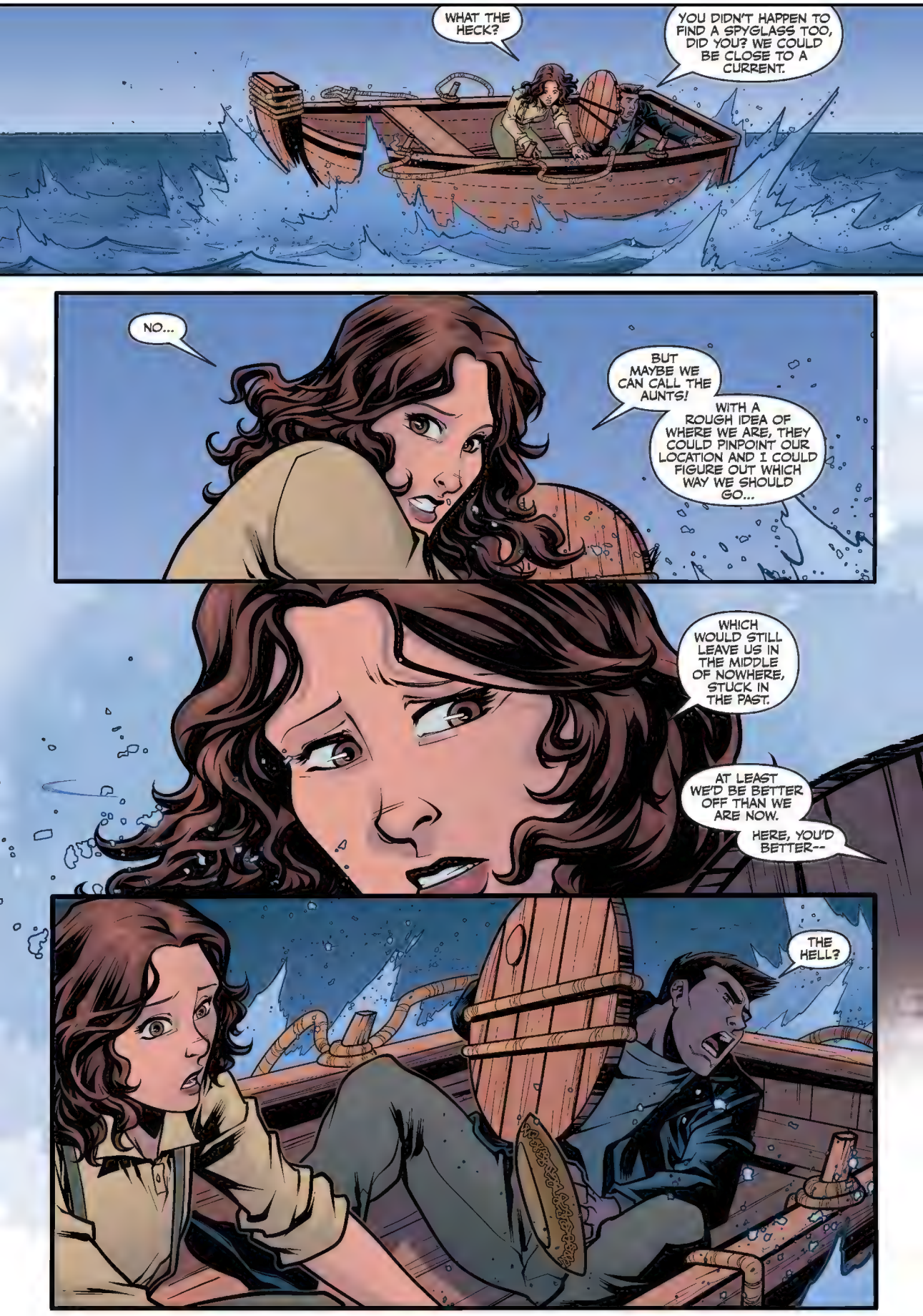
BECAUSE THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE. IF I COULD JUST FIND A PENCIL MAYBE I COULD WORK IT OUT...
HEY, CAREFUL! YOU'LL CAPSIZE US!
SORRY, SORRY!

ANY LUCK?
THESE ARE GREAT POCKETS!
THAT'S NICE, FRED. ANYTHING IN THEM?

WOMEN ALWAYS GET SHORTCHANGED ON POCKETS...
AW, DAMN.

WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR?
A COMPASS! WHAT KIND OF SAILOR LEAVES PORT WITHOUT ONE?
SEAMEN WITH A NOSE LIKE MINE?
I'LL BE ABLE TO SMELL LAND. YOU JUST PAY ATTENTION TO THE SUN SO WE DON'T GO IN CIRCLES.

I WISH YOU HAD FOUND AN UMBRELLA THOUGH. A GREAT BIG BLACK ONE THAT CASTS A LOT OF SHADE.
SPLSH
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
I DIDN'T SPLASH YOU!
IT'S GETTING CHOPPIER. WIND IS PICKING UP.
GOOD THING YOU CAN SURVIVE UNDER WATER. I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS THING WILL HOLD UP IN A STORM.
I'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME AT SEA TO KNOW A STORM ISN'T COMING ANY TIME SOON.
WHICH IS GOOD, SINCE YOU MIGHT HAVE A HARD TIME HOLDING YOUR BREATH AS LONG AS ME.

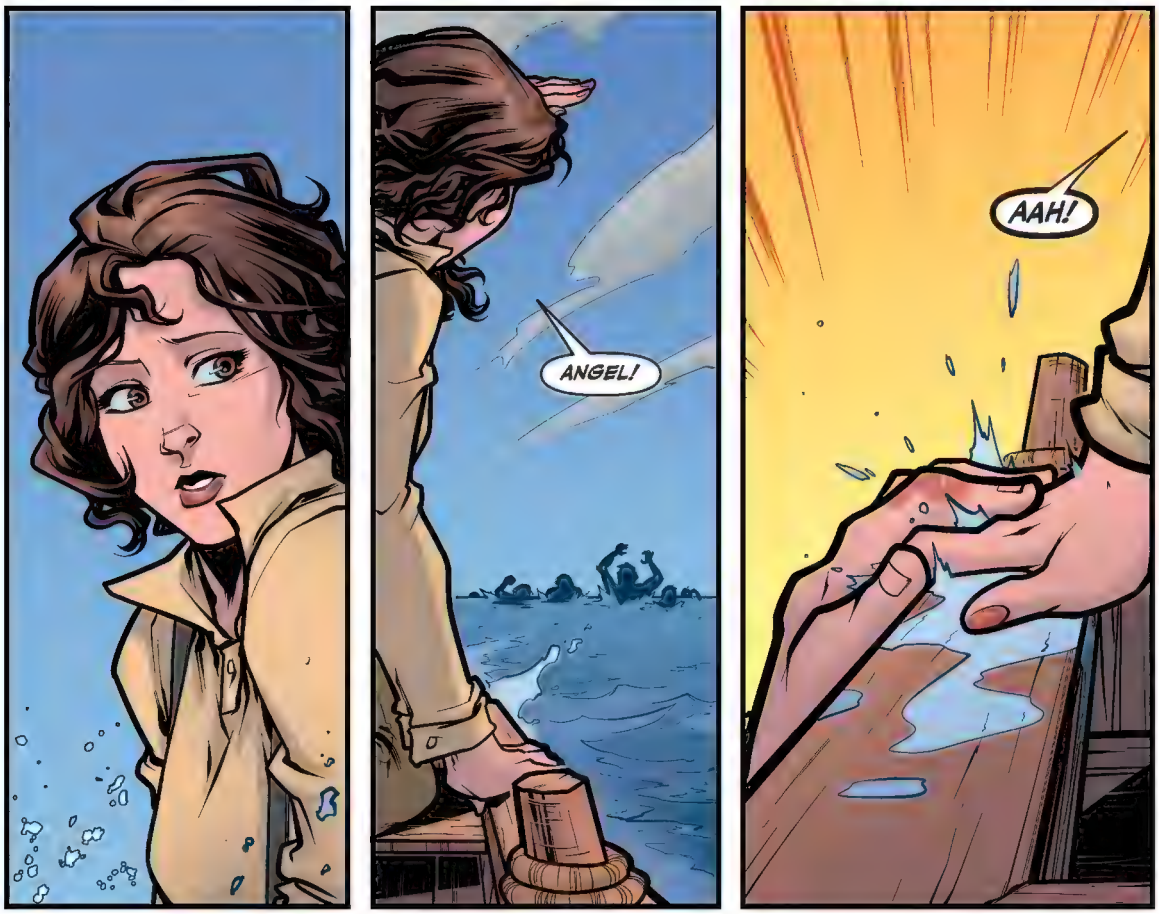

WHAT THE HECK?
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO FIND A SPYGLASS TOO, DID YOU? WE COULD BE CLOSE TO A CURRENT.
NO...
BUT MAYBE WE CAN CALL THE AUNTS!
WITH A ROUGH IDEA OF WHERE WE ARE, THEY COULD PINPOINT OUR LOCATION AND I COULD FIGURE OUT WHICH WAY WE SHOULD GO...
WHICH WOULD STILL LEAVE US IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, STUCK IN THE PAST.
AT LEAST WE'D BE BETTER OFF THAN WE ARE NOW.
HERE, YOU'D BETTER--
THE HELL?

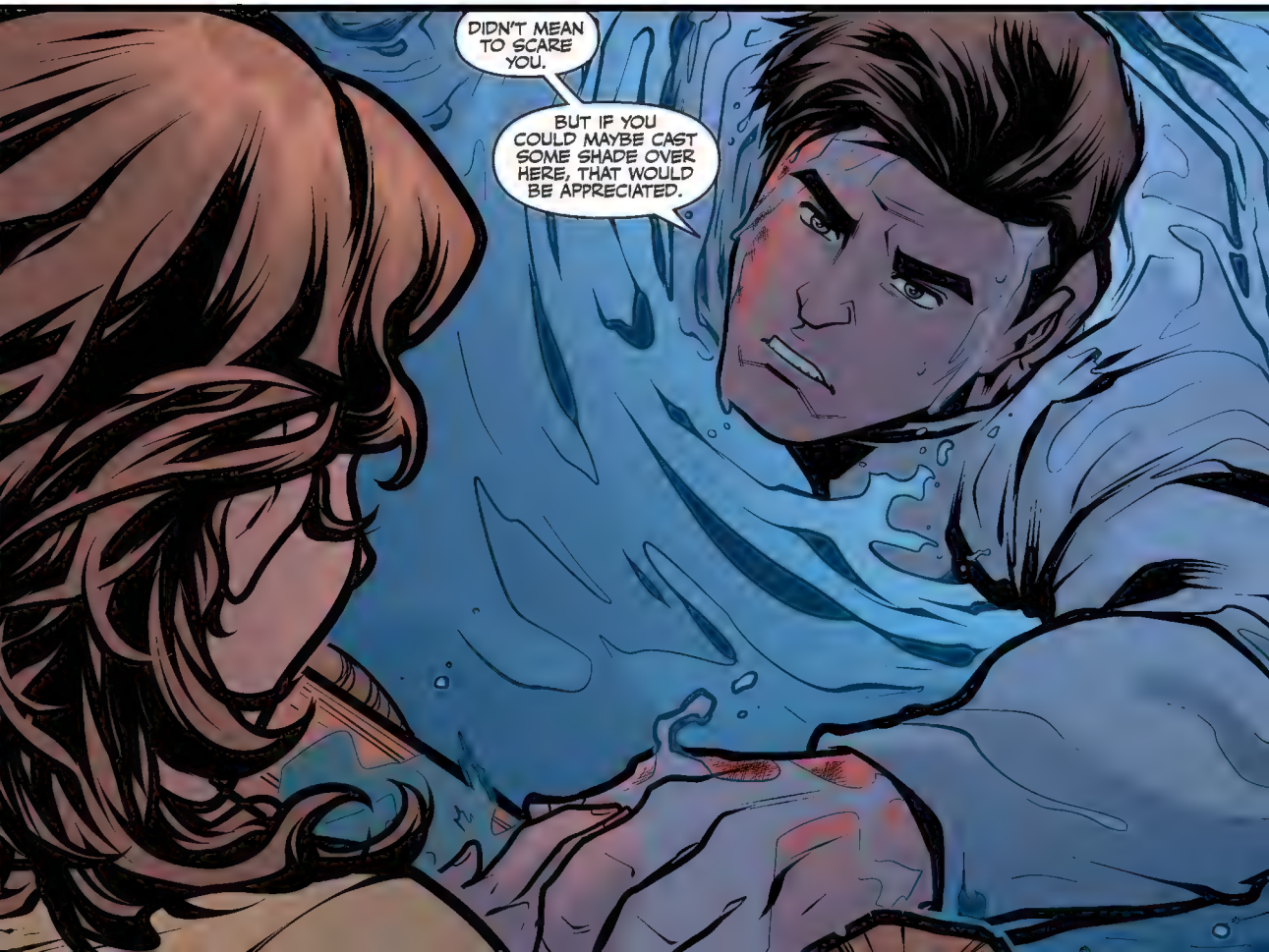
UM...
ANGEL...
WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

THOK
TIME AND TIDE
PART FOUR
WHAP
ANGEL...
I'M OPEN TO IDEAS!
WUP

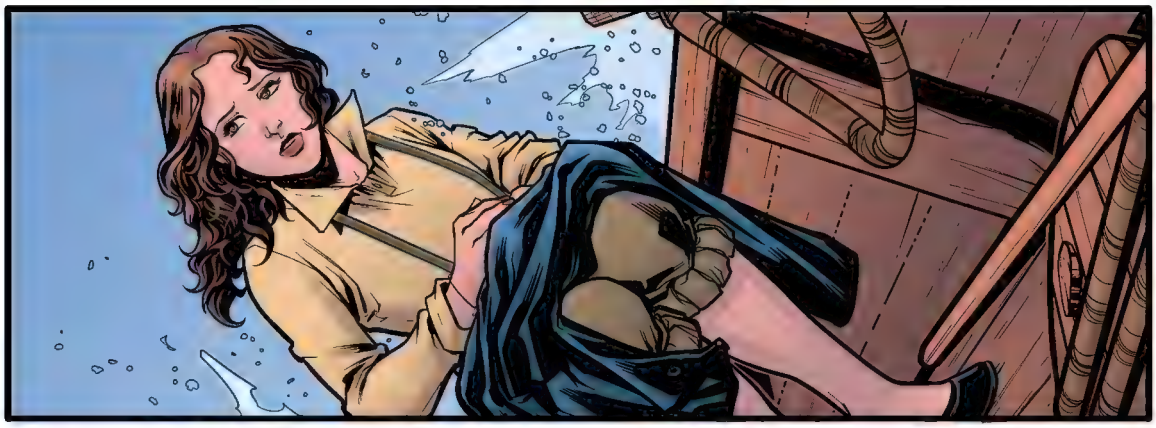
SPLSH
WHK

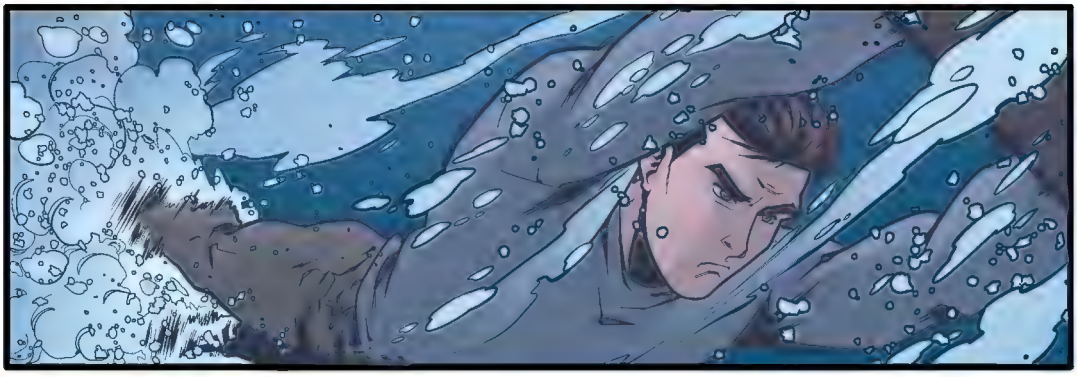
ANGEL! YOU CAN'T...!
FWAK
ANGEL?
SLSSSH

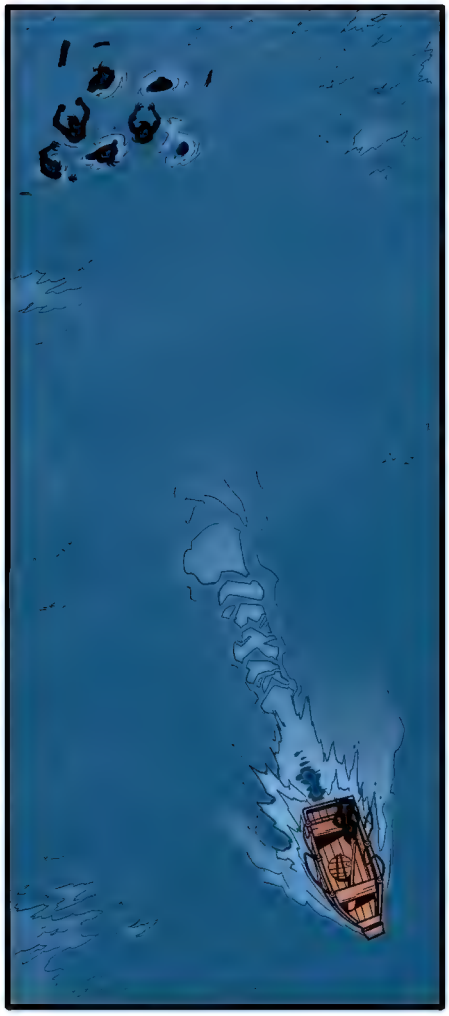

ANGEL!
AAH!

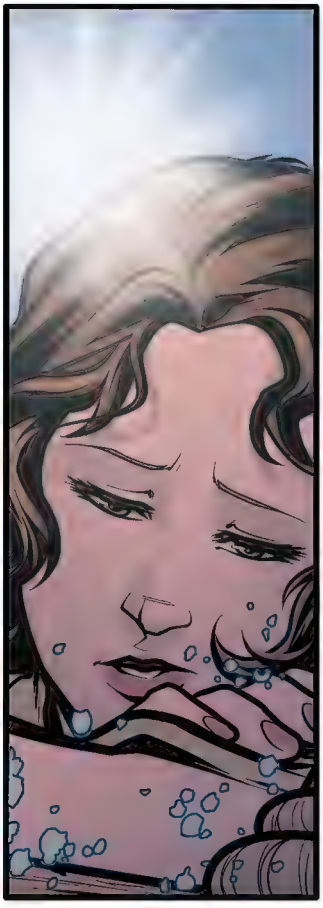

DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU.
BUT IF YOU COULD MAYBE CAST SOME SHADE OVER HERE, THAT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

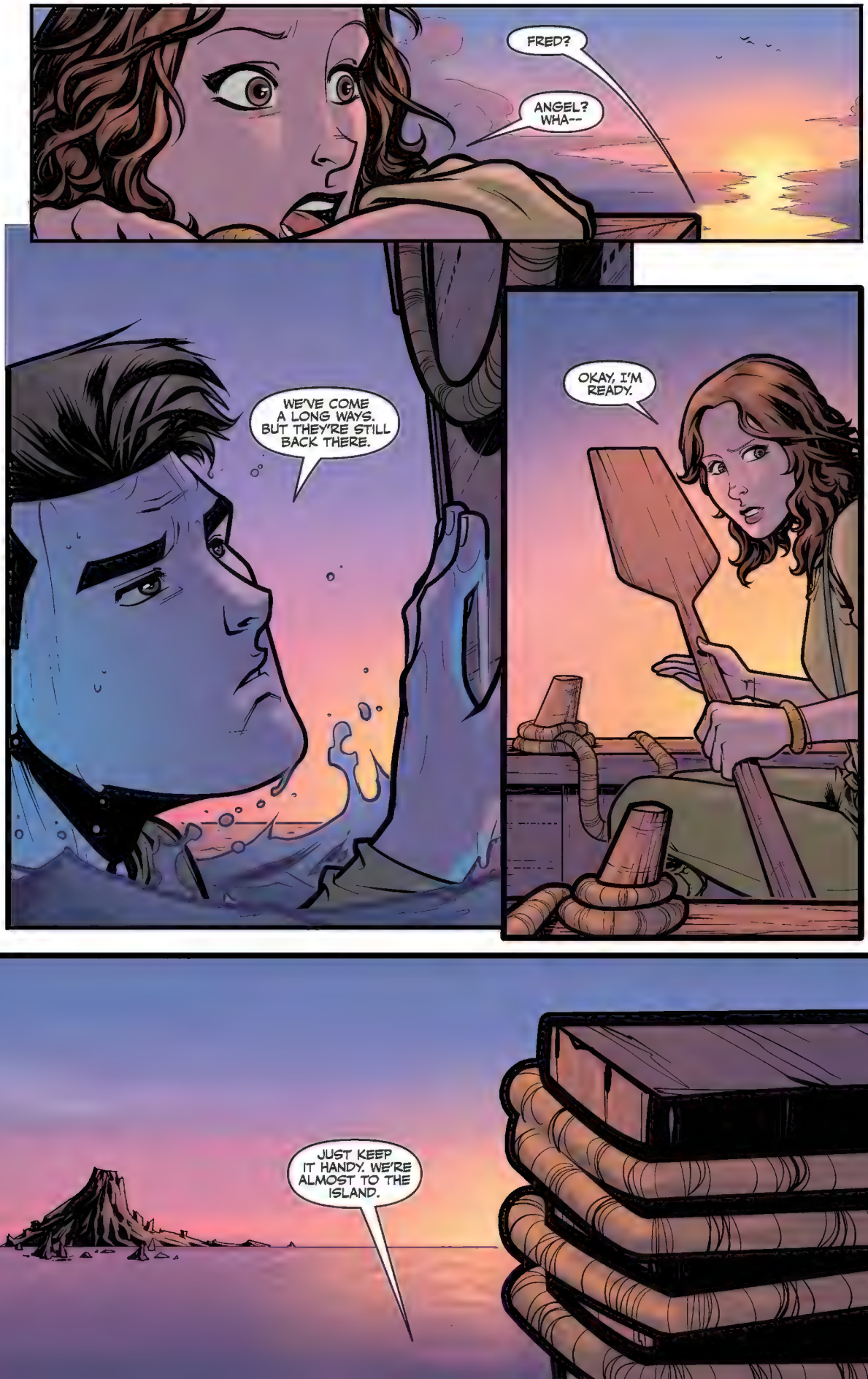
THAT LOOKS *REAL* PAINFUL.
IT'LL HEAL A LOT FASTER THAN YOU WOULD HAVE...
ESPECIALLY IF THEY'D DRAGGED YOU TO THE BOTTOM.
WHAT NOW?
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL JUST GIVE UP, AND WE *CAN'T* LEAD THEM ANYWHERE INHABITED.
THERE'S AN ISLAND NEARBY. TINY, JUST VOLCANIC ROCK, BUT TAKING A STAND THERE COULD BUY US TIME.
YOU REMEMBER PASSING IT LAST TIME YOU CAME THIS WAY?
HARDLY. ANGELUS WASN'T INTERESTED IN SIGHTSEEING WITHOUT MURDER OR MAYHEM INVOLVED.
DOES THIS MEAN VAMPIRES HAVE SOME SPECIAL VOLCANO SENSE YOU'RE ONLY NOW TELLING ME ABOUT?
CAN'T *YOU* SMELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TYPES OF ROCKS?
I...
SORRY, JUST KIDDING. BUT SEABIRD COLONIES REALLY STINK AND I SMELL A BIT OF ASH TOO, SO...IT'S A GUESS.
I'LL START ROWING.
NO NEED...

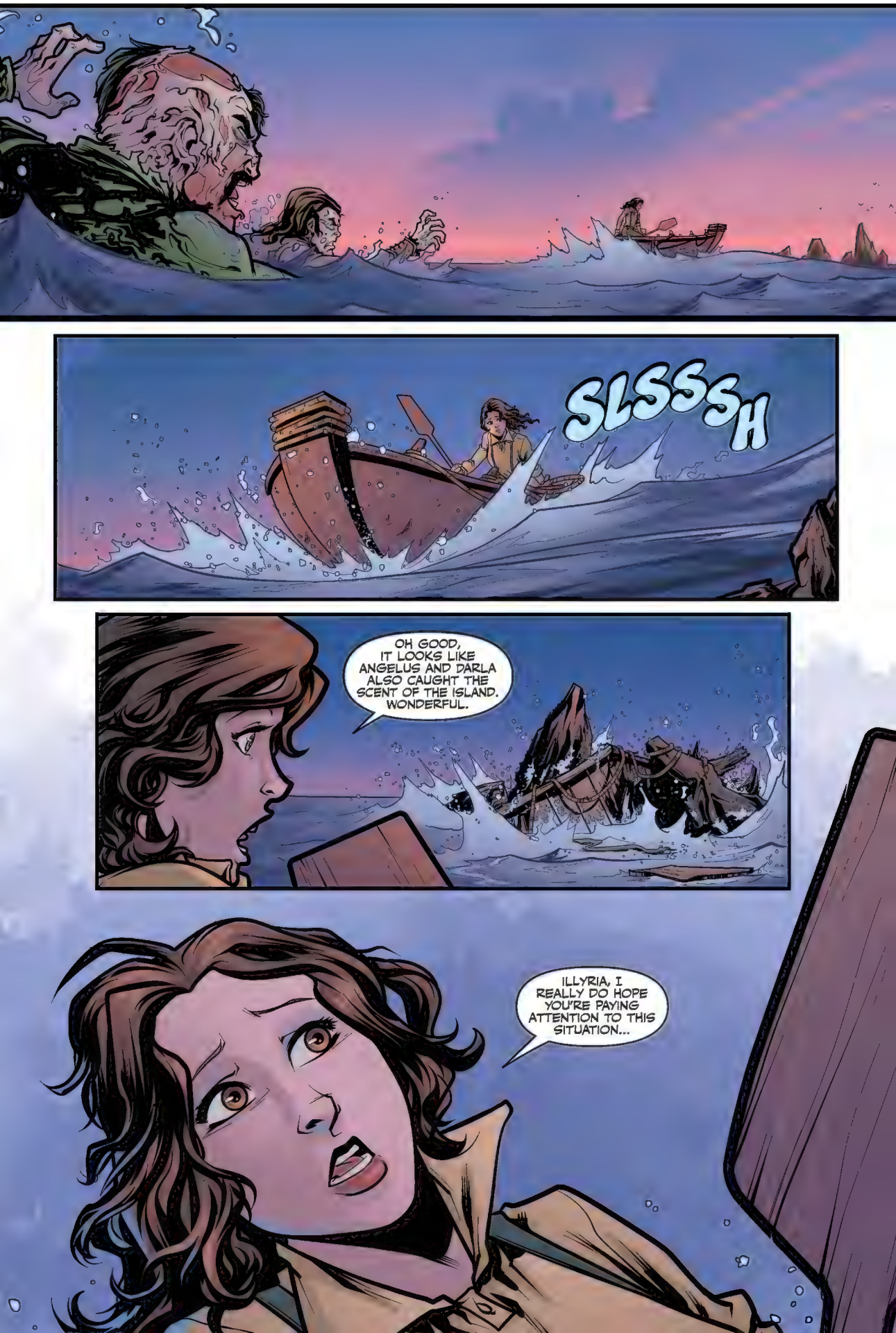


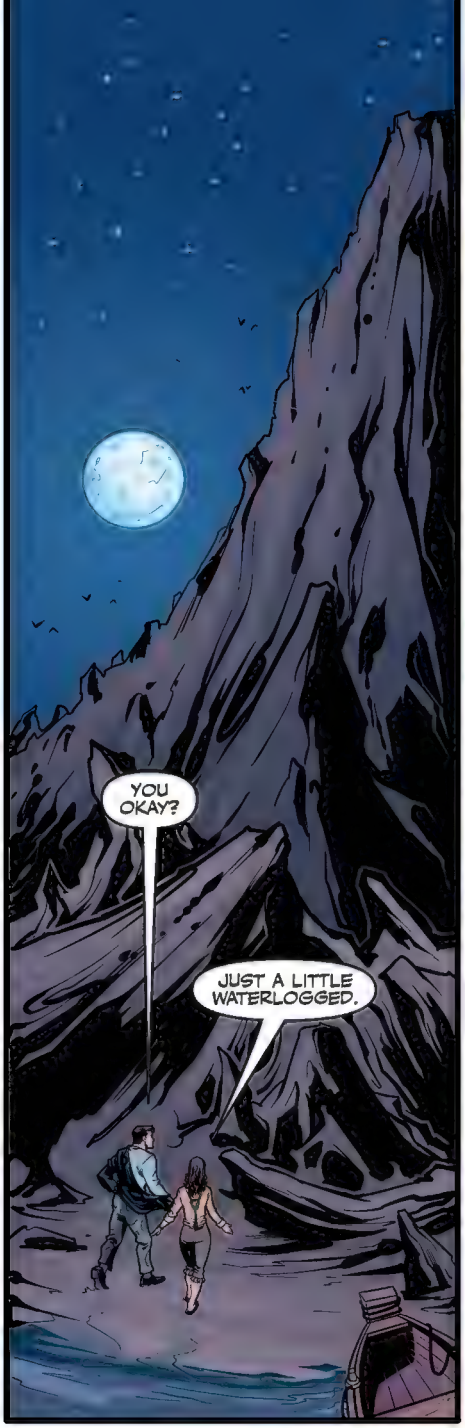




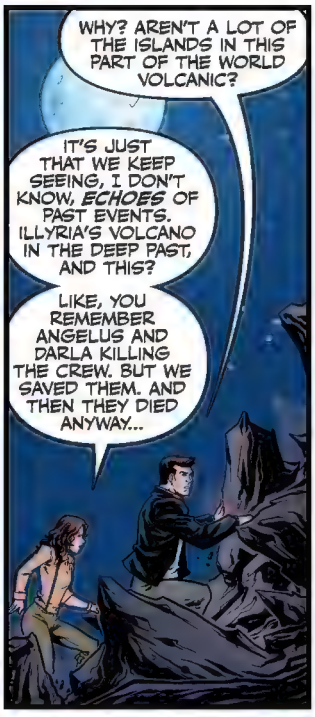



FRED?
ANGEL? WHA--
WE'VE COME A LONG WAYS. BUT THEY'RE STILL BACK THERE.
OKAY, I'M READY.
JUST KEEP IT HANDY. WE'RE ALMOST TO THE ISLAND.


SLSSSSH
OH GOOD, IT LOOKS LIKE ANGELUS AND DARLA ALSO CAUGHT THE SCENT OF THE ISLAND. WONDERFUL.
ILLYRIA, I REALLY DO HOPE YOU'RE PAYING ATTENTION TO THIS SITUATION...


YOU OKAY?
JUST A LITTLE WATERLOGGED.

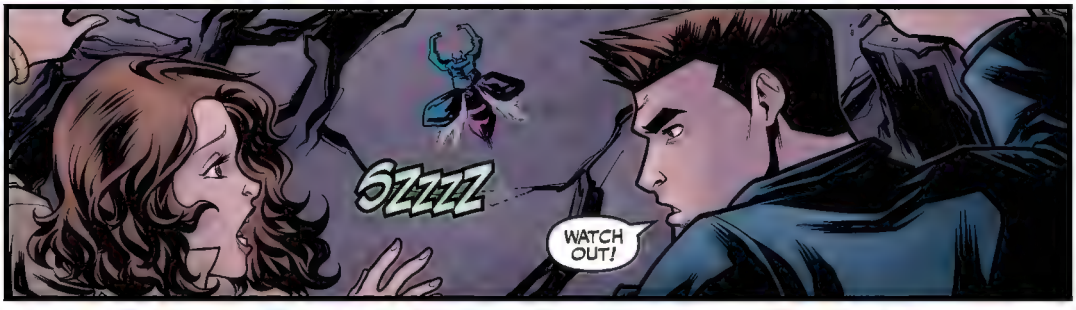
COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THE WATER. OR RATHER, WHAT'S GOING TO *COME OUT* OF THE WATER.
PERSONALLY, I DON'T CARE IF I *NEVER* SEE THE OCEAN AGAIN.
YOU SAID THIS ISLAND WOULD BE VOLCANIC. I KINDA HOPED YOU'D BE WRONG.


WHY? AREN'T A LOT OF THE ISLANDS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD VOLCANIC?
IT'S JUST THAT WE KEEP SEEING, I DON'T KNOW, *ECHOES* OF PAST EVENTS. ILLYRIA'S VOLCANO IN THE DEEP PAST, AND THIS?
LIKE, YOU REMEMBER ANGELUS AND DARLA KILLING THE CREW. BUT WE SAVED THEM. AND THEN THEY DIED ANYWAY...

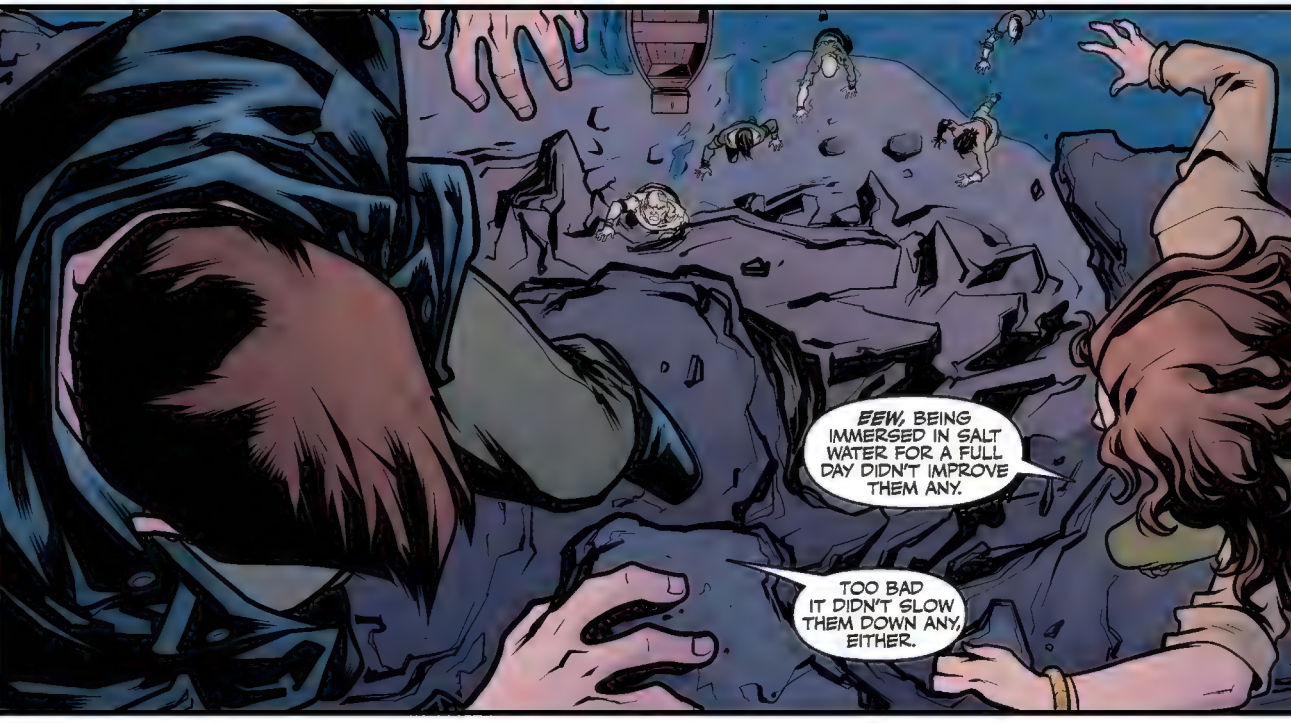
WHICH IS ODD, BECAUSE THEY WERE KILLED BY *BUGS*. THE VERY THING THAT STARTED ALL THIS, AND THAT WE'RE TRYING TO AVOID IN THE FUTURE...
IT'S LIKE WE CAN CHANGE EVENTS EASILY ENOUGH, BUT CHANGING THE COURSE OF *HISTORY* IS HARDER.

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE WHERE THIS IS GOING. ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY WE'RE *FATED* TO LOSE?
WHERE WOULD I BE NOW IF I HAD JUST ACCEPTED VAMPIRISM AS *MY* FATE? GETTING MY SOUL BACK WOULDN'T HAVE FIXED THAT.
I HAD TO FIGHT, *STILL* HAVE TO FIGHT, AGAINST THAT EVERY DAY.
SZZZZ
ZZSZZ
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

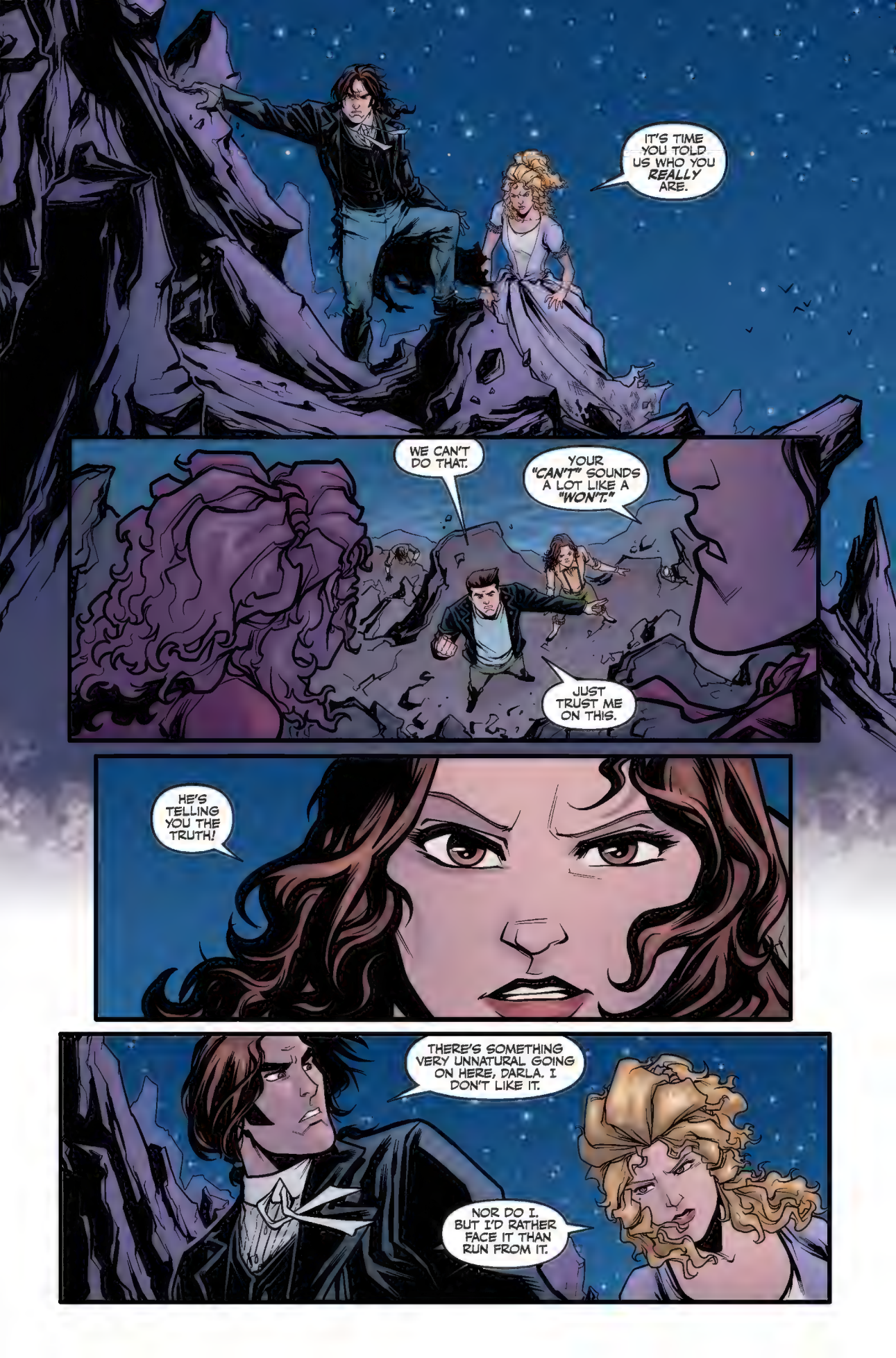
WELL MAYBE IT'S THE SAME. YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON, ANGEL. THE FACT THAT *DOING* GOOD ISN'T EASY FOR YOU PROVES IT!
MAYBE HISTORY *WANTS* TO TAKE THE EASY PATH. IT'S UP TO US TO PUSH HARD ENOUGH TO FORCE IT TO TAKE THE HARD ONE.
AND BY NOTICING PATTERNS WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE TO APPLY PRESSURE.
OKAY, LET'S SAY YOU'RE RIGHT, AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE BACK ON A VOLCAN--


SZZZZ
WATCH OUT!

I SEE IT!
CLIMB FASTER, FRED!


EEW, BEING IMMERSED IN SALT WATER FOR A FULL DAY DIDN'T IMPROVE THEM ANY.
TOO BAD IT DIDN'T SLOW THEM DOWN ANY, EITHER.

ONE, TWO...
THREE!
THUK
NOT EXACTLY A PRECISION INSTRUMENT.
AT LEAST WE WON'T RUN OUT--
WHAT TH--
TAK
TAK
TAK


IT'S TIME YOU TOLD US WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
WE CAN'T DO THAT.
YOUR "CAN'T" SOUNDS A LOT LIKE A "WON'T."
JUST TRUST ME ON THIS.
HE'S TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!
THERE'S SOMETHING VERY UNNATURAL GOING ON HERE, DARLA. I DON'T LIKE IT.
NOR DO I. BUT I'D RATHER FACE IT THAN RUN FROM IT.

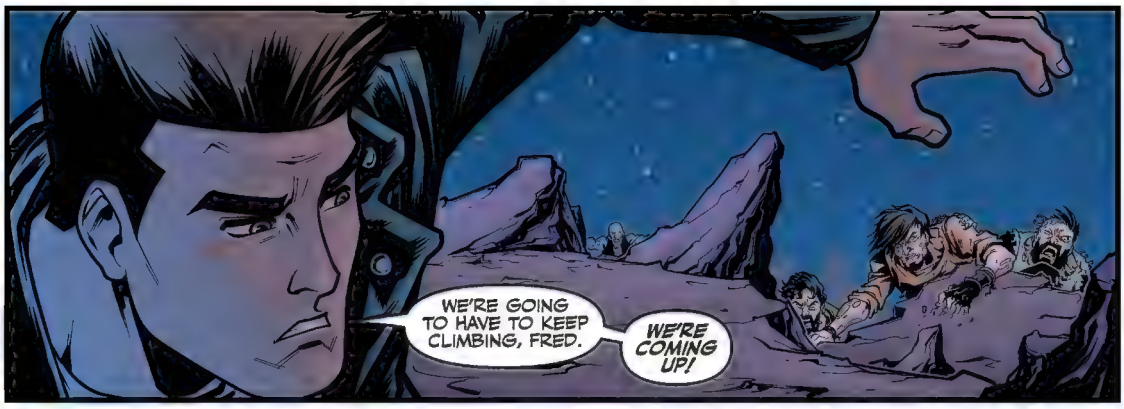
UM, ANGEL...
I THINK WE'D BETTER DO SOMETHING.

CAN YOU CALL UP ILLYRIA? NO OFFENSE, BUT SHE MIGHT BE BETTER AT DEALING WITH THIS.

I GET THE FEELING SHE THINKS SHE'S GOING TO HAVE A DIFFICULT TASK SOON.
BUT I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO HER TO LEARN ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.

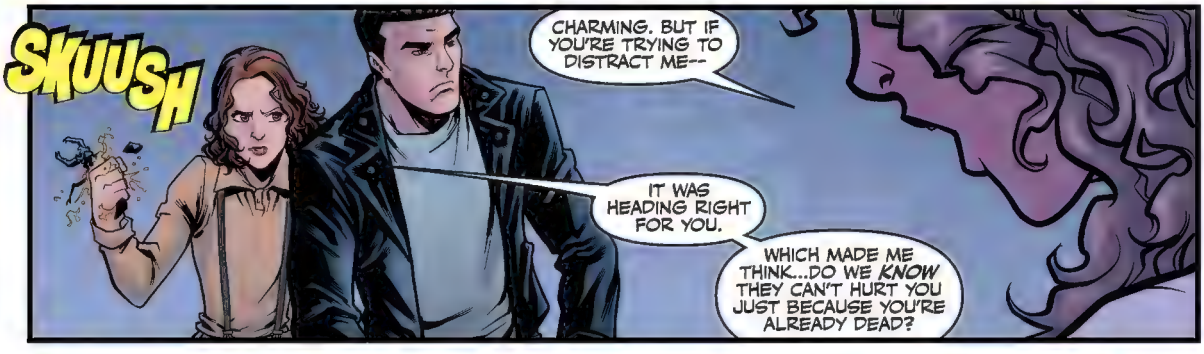
I...NO. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT, SO WHAT? IT ONLY MEANS THEY CAN'T HARM US. WE CAN DO WHAT WE LIKE WITH THEM.
IF YOU'RE RIGHT.

HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THEM? THE BLUE WOMAN IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY BEING I'VE EVER CROSSED PATHS WITH.
BUT SHE IS NO LONGER HERE.
PERHAPS. BUT EVEN IF I AM WRONG, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THAT THEY TOY WITH US?


WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP CLIMBING, FRED.
WE'RE COMING UP!

ANGELUS HAS A THEORY ABOUT YOU. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR IT?
I ALREADY KNOW WHAT IT IS.

THEN ENLIGHTEN ME. IS IT TRUE?
BECAUSE IF IT IS--


SKUUSH
CHARMING. BUT IF YOU'RE TRYING TO DISTRACT ME--
IT WAS HEADING RIGHT FOR YOU.
WHICH MADE ME THINK...DO WE KNOW THEY CAN'T HURT YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD?

I MEAN, WE COULD BE IN REAL TROUBLE IF THEY BORED INTO ONE OF YOUR HEADS, RIGHT?

LOOK. HOW DID THEY MULTIPLY SO QUICKLY?
HZZZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME!
ZZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
THEY'RE TARGETING THEIR ATTACKS. PROTECT YOUR HEADS, DON'T LET THEM LAND ON YOU!
TARGETING THEIR ATTACKS...

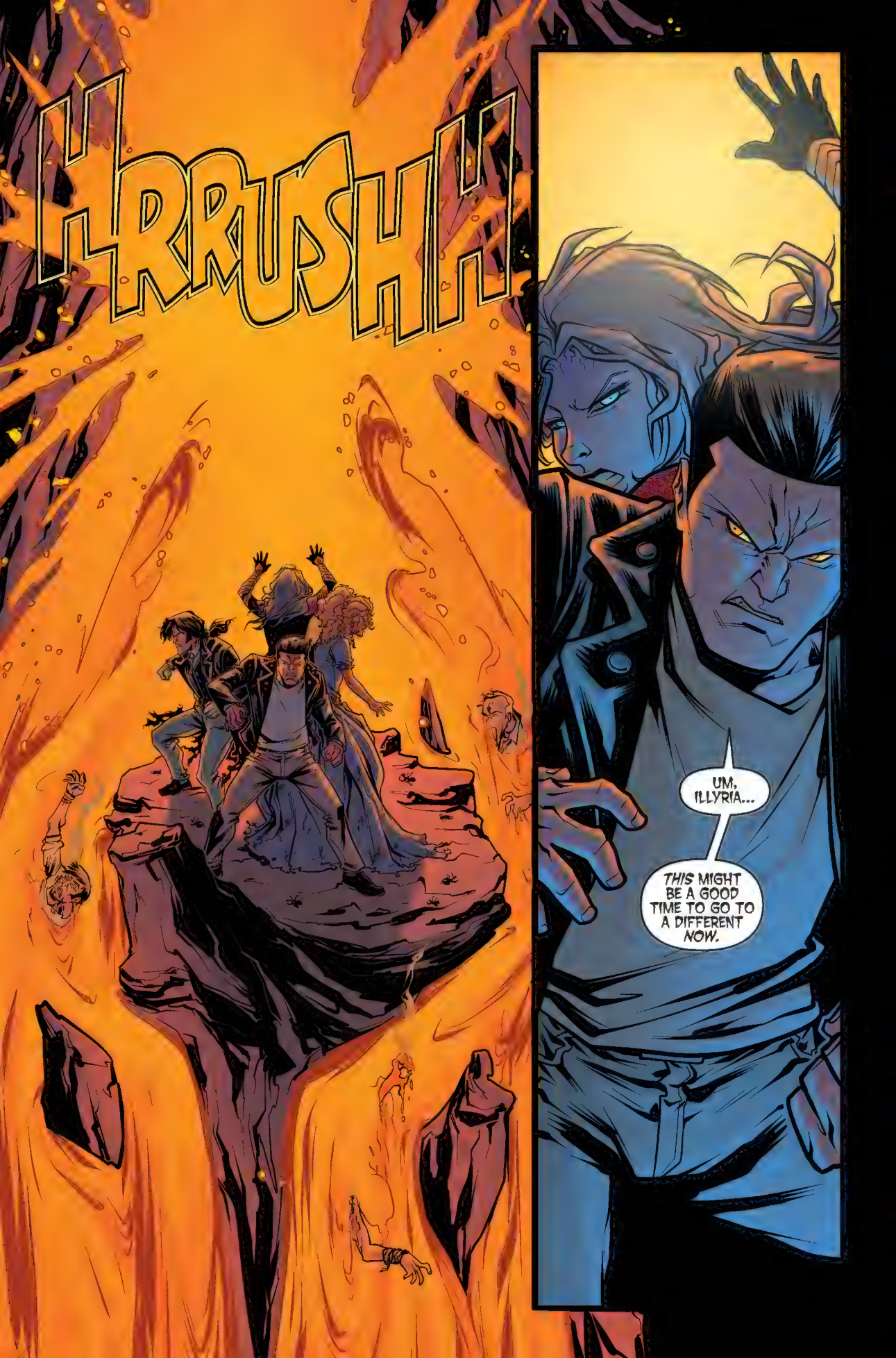
AAAAARGH! DAMN YOU--!
ZZGZZ
WHUD
KRAK
TARGETING THEIR ATTACKS...
AND DOING IT ON A VOLCANIC ISLAND, RIGHT NEXT TO WHAT USED TO BE A LAVA TUBE...
ANGEL! I HAVE A PLAN!

ILLYRIA...
ILLYRIA, PLEASE...
FRED'S FIGURED SOMETHING OUT. WE HAVE TO PROTECT HER WHILE SHE DOES IT!
ANGELUS, HELP ME KEEP HER SAFE! SHE CAN GET US OUT OF THIS!
CAREFUL, IT COULD BE A TRAP.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS...
BUT A CAREFULLY CHOREOGRAPHED SNARE IT IS NOT.

ILLYRIA, I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME. AND I KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING...
SO PLEASE, LET'S TRY TO WORK TOGETHER FOR ONCE?
SHE IS BACK.
A RIDDLE FOR WHICH WE SHOULD BE--

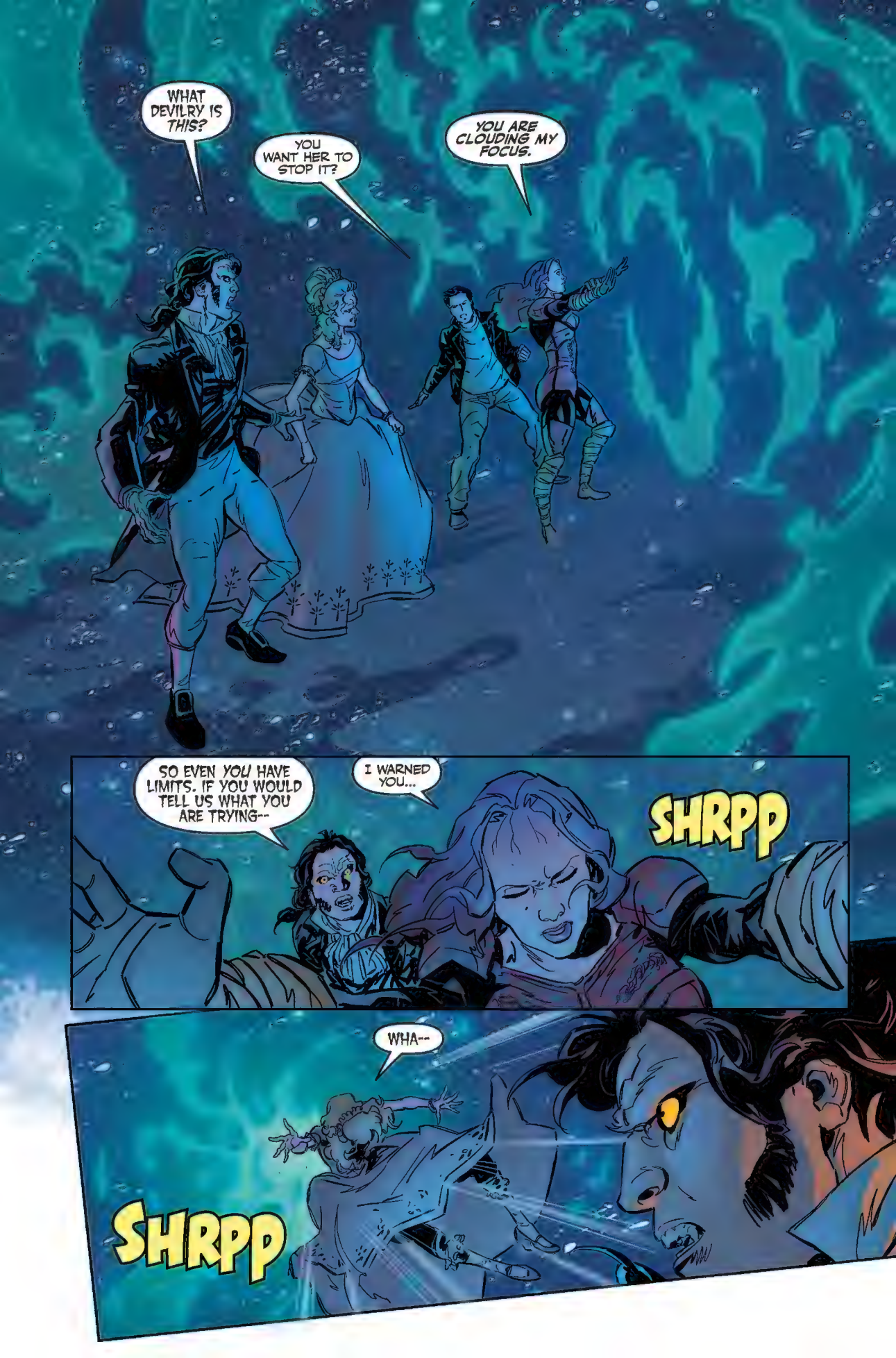
QUIET. MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN...
MUCH LIKE THE WALLS OF THIS LAVA CHAMBER...
HSSSS
AND THE CALDERA SEAL BENEATH US...
RRRMBBBBL

AAHAHHA!
HSSSs
ILLYRIA, I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA!
FRED THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO CLOSE THE LOOP. WE STOPPED AN ERUPTION IN THE PAST. NOW, AGES LATER, THAT TENSION IS RELEASED.
AND OUR ENEMIES DIE IN THE PROCESS. UNLESS YOU HAVE A MORE WORKABLE PLAN?
IT BUILDS...
I AM SORRY, ANGEL. BUT THIS TIME THERE IS NO STOPPING WHAT HAS BEGUN.


HRRUSH!!
UM, ILLYRIA...
THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO GO TO A DIFFERENT NOW.

I WILL DO WHAT I CAN.
THIS WILL BE... UNCOMFORTABLE. THERE ARE LIMITS TO EVEN WHAT I CAN DO...
WHAT IS IT?
AND BRINGING BOTH OF YOU, TOGETHER, THROUGH THIS MAY CAUSE IT TO REACT AS ANGRILY AS THE CALDERA...
HOWEVER WE WILL BE AWAY...FROM HERE.

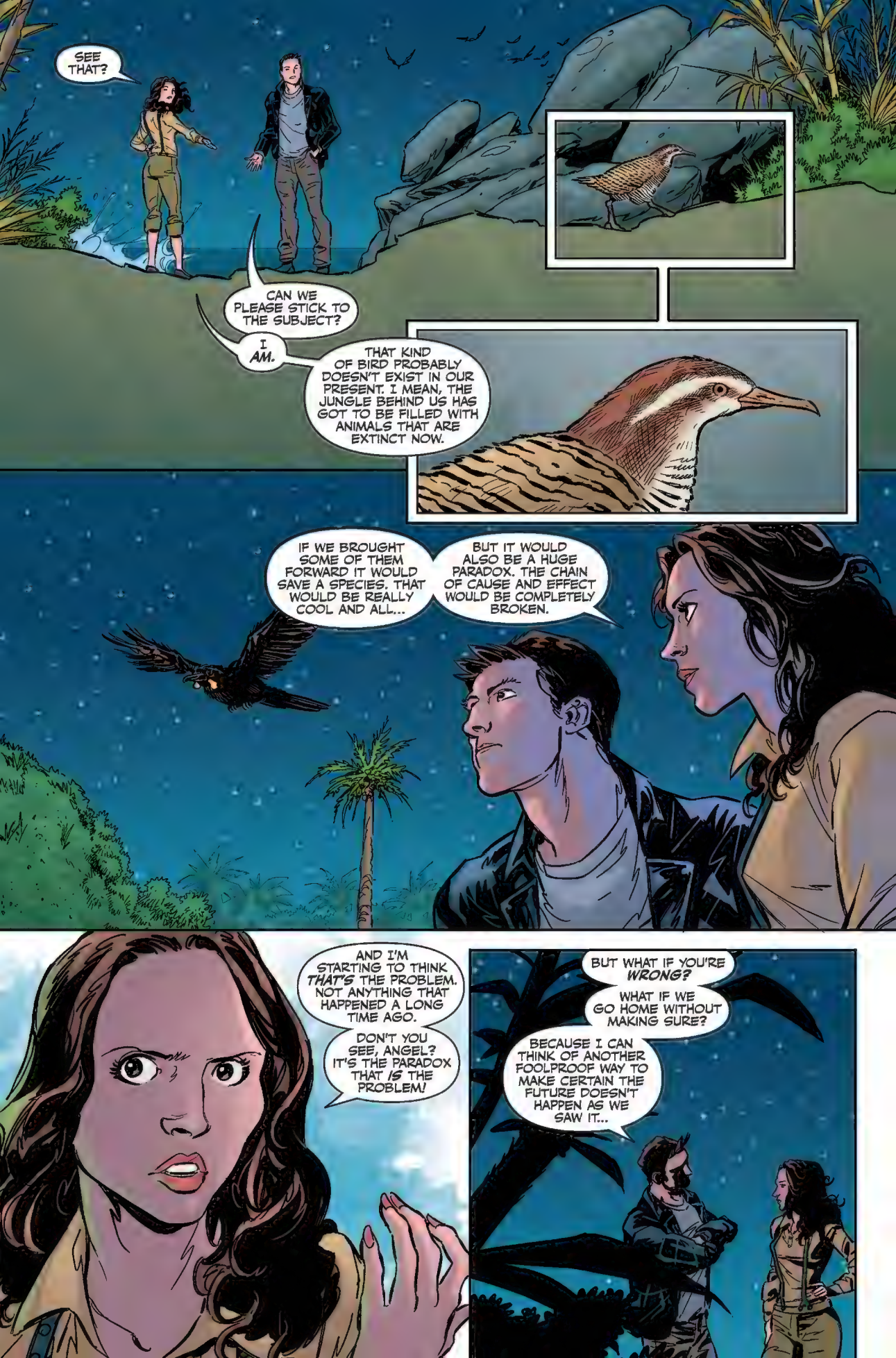
DARK REFLECTIONS
PART ONE
YOU HAVE A GIFT FOR MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE.
IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN IT IS EASY.


WHAT DEVILRY IS THIS?
YOU WANT HER TO STOP IT?
YOU ARE CLOUDING MY FOCUS.
SO EVEN YOU HAVE LIMITS. IF YOU WOULD TELL US WHAT YOU ARE TRYING--
I WARNED YOU...
SHRPP
WHA--
SHRPP

DARLA!
ANGELUS!
AAH!
IT WAS...
TOO MUCH. TRANSPORTING FOUR, AND TWO THE SAME...
NOT THE SAME. I DID NOT MEAN--
THIS PORTAL WILL NOT HOLD. I MUST--

ILLYRIA! ARE YOU OKAY?
WE DIDN'T GO FAR, JUST A DAY AND A FEW DEGREES.
AT LEAST WE LANDED DURING THE NIGHT.
I HAVE LEARNED A LESSON OR TWO SINCE WE BEGAN TRAVELING...
SO A LITTLE CREDIT MIGHT BE NICE.
HELLO, FRED. NICE TO SEE YOU.
YOU MIGHT NOT FEEL THAT WAY WHEN YOU HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, I'VE BEEN THINKING WHILE ILLYRIA WAS DOING...
AND THE MORE I THINK, THE WORSE THIS SEEMS.

YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN THAT.
IS THIS ABOUT ILLYRIA?
WHA...
NOT AT ALL! ACTUALLY, WE'RE DOING MUCH BETTER TOGETHER. I CAN KIND OF TELL WHAT SHE'S DOING NOW WHILE I'M GONE.
AND VICE VERSA, I THINK. NO, IT'S NOT THAT. IT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING. TRAVELING THROUGH TIME...
JUST THINK ABOUT HOW UNNATURAL THIS IS. YOU'VE LIVED THROUGH THIS. AND HERE YOU ARE AGAIN.
AND THEN YOU MET YOURSELF. AND TRAVELED WITH YOURSELF.
THAT WASN'T REALLY--
I KNOW, BUT IT ALSO WAS.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, I THINK TIME MIGHT PROTECT ITSELF. AND IT MIGHT NOT LIKE WHAT WE'RE DOING BY GOING BACK AND CHANGING THINGS. BIG THINGS.
BUT WE KNOW THE FUTURE IS DIFFERENT NOW. WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
YEAH...
MAYBE THAT'S A BAD THING.


SEE THAT?
CAN WE PLEASE STICK TO THE SUBJECT?
I AM.
THAT KIND OF BIRD PROBABLY DOESN'T EXIST IN OUR PRESENT. I MEAN, THE JUNGLE BEHIND US HAS GOT TO BE FILLED WITH ANIMALS THAT ARE EXTINCT NOW.
IF WE BROUGHT SOME OF THEM FORWARD IT WOULD SAVE A SPECIES. THAT WOULD BE REALLY COOL AND ALL...
BUT IT WOULD ALSO BE A HUGE PARADOX. THE CHAIN OF CAUSE AND EFFECT WOULD BE COMPLETELY BROKEN.
AND I'M STARTING TO THINK *THAT'S* THE PROBLEM. NOT ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO.
DON'T YOU SEE, ANGEL? IT'S THE PARADOX THAT *IS* THE PROBLEM!
BUT WHAT IF YOU'RE *WRONG?*
WHAT IF WE GO HOME WITHOUT MAKING SURE?
BECAUSE I CAN THINK OF ANOTHER FOOLPROOF WAY TO MAKE CERTAIN THE FUTURE DOESN'T HAPPEN AS WE SAW IT...

IF ANGELUS IS NEVER CREATED, NONE OF THE REST CAN EVER HAPPEN!
OH, COME ON! I WAS TALKING TO FRED!
AND NOW YOU ARE TALKING TO ME.
FRED IS CORRECT. WE MUST RETURN TO THE PRESENT.
WAIT... YOU CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER NOW? HOW?
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT SHE IS RIGHT. I WAS...IMPULSIVE BEFORE. I MUST ADMIT THAT.
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD AT LEAST CHECK IN AT HOME FIRST? WHAT IF WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK AND WE STOP NOW?

AREV, YOU SIMPLY *MUST* TAKE MY SIDE. THIS DRESS WOULD LOOK EVER SO MUCH MORE CHARM--
CHECKING IN AGAIN SO SOON?
UM, YEAH. HOW ARE THINGS THERE?
COULD BE BETTER. MY SIZE JUST ISN--
YOU ARE BEING RIDICULOUS. IF YOU WOULD JUST TAKE MY ADVICE AND--
THE POINT IS, AREV DOESN'T MUCH CARE FOR CONFRONTATION, SO WE HAVEN'T REACHED A DECISION...HEY, MAYBE YOU CAN HELP!
OUR ONLY ACCOMPLISHMENT IS INFLICTING HIS RACE ON FUTURE GENERATIONS. ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?
WAIT A MINUTE. SOMETIMES THEY DON'T GET TO THE POINT RIGHT AWAY. WE JUST NEED TO ASK THE PROPER QUESTIONS.
ANYWAY, *I'M* GLAD YOU'RE STILL...WHEREVER YOU ARE.
YES, AT LEAST YOU WEREN'T SQUISHED FLAT WHEN THAT BEASTLY HOTEL YOU WERE STAYING AT DISINTEGRATED.
WHAT HOTEL? THE ONE IN DUBLIN?
WE SHOULD NOT HAVE DOUBTED FRED!

THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.
CAN IT?
EITHER WAY, WE ARE GOING HOME.
SO, WHICH ONE SHOULD IT BE? YOU ARE GOING TO SORT THIS OUT FOR US, *RIGHT,* ANGEL?
UH, I LIKE THE GREEN ONE. GOTTA GO, SORRY!
GREEN ONE? WHAT GREEN ONE? AREV--
BUT--
DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF CONTRADICTING ME. WE ARE LEAVING, *NOW.*
WE CAN'T GO HOME YET. THERE'S ONE MORE TIME WE HAVE TO VISIT.
NO.
WHATEVER IS GOING TO HAPPEN, WE MUST MEET IT AS INTENDED...
HEAD-ON, WITH BOTH EYES OPEN.

EVEN I AM NOT BOUNDLESS, AND THE LAST JOURNEY TOOK MUCH FROM ME.
ANGEL, YOU MUST HELP TO GUIDE US.
ILLYRIA...

I'M SORRY ILLYRIA...
WE CAN'T GO BACK YET.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ANGEL, YOU MUST THINK OF HOME.
I AM.

IS THIS--
I WASN'T A GOD WHEN I LIVED HERE, BUT THIS IS WHERE MY BIGGEST REGRET HAPPENED.

HOW DARE YOU? WE SHOULD NOT BE HERE, AND NOW IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I CAN SUMMON THE PORTAL AGAIN.
LISTEN, WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS, I COULDN'T GO HOME KNOWING I HAD THE POWER TO FIX THIS AND DIDN'T.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT, ESPECIALLY NOW?
STAY OUT OF SIGHT. THEY WON'T TAKE WELL TO SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE YOU IN THIS TIME PERIOD.
...NOW, ISN'T THAT AN OFFER TO BEAT ALL OTHERS? YOU'LL NOT HEAR ITS LIKE AGAIN.
WHY, IF IT WASN'T FOR THE HIGH REGARD IN WHICH I HOLD YOUR FAMILY NAME, I WOULD NEVER MAKE SUCH AN--
NOT INTERESTED.
NOW, HEAR ME OUT, LIAM. THIS COULD SET YOU UP WELL IN A TRADE NOT CONNECTED TO YOUR FATHER, IF THAT BE YOUR WISH.
OR, IF YOU WOULD RATHER COMBINE--
MY DEAR FATHER WOULD NEVER CONDONE SUCH A THING.
BESIDES, I'M NOT INTERESTED.
I WOULD NOT HAVE GUESSED IT...
BUT YOU WERE A TERRIBLE BORE WHILE YOU LIVED.

NO OFFENSE, ILLYRIA, BUT YOU MIGHT BE JUST A LITTLE *TOO* INTERESTING IN THIS TIME AND PLACE.
POINT TAKEN. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SEE YOU IN SUCH A...
...A *HUMAN* STATE ANYWAY.
HELLO, FRED.
WE'RE NOT HOME YET.
I KNOW. ILLYRIA TOLD ME.
I CAN'T GET USED TO THIS.
OH MY GOSH, THERE YOU *ARE!* YOU LOOK SO SAD AND LOST, LIKE A LITTLE HOMELESS PUPPY!
I MEAN, I KNEW YOU WERE ONCE FULLY HUMAN, BUT YOU JUST LOOK SO--
FRED... *COME ON.*

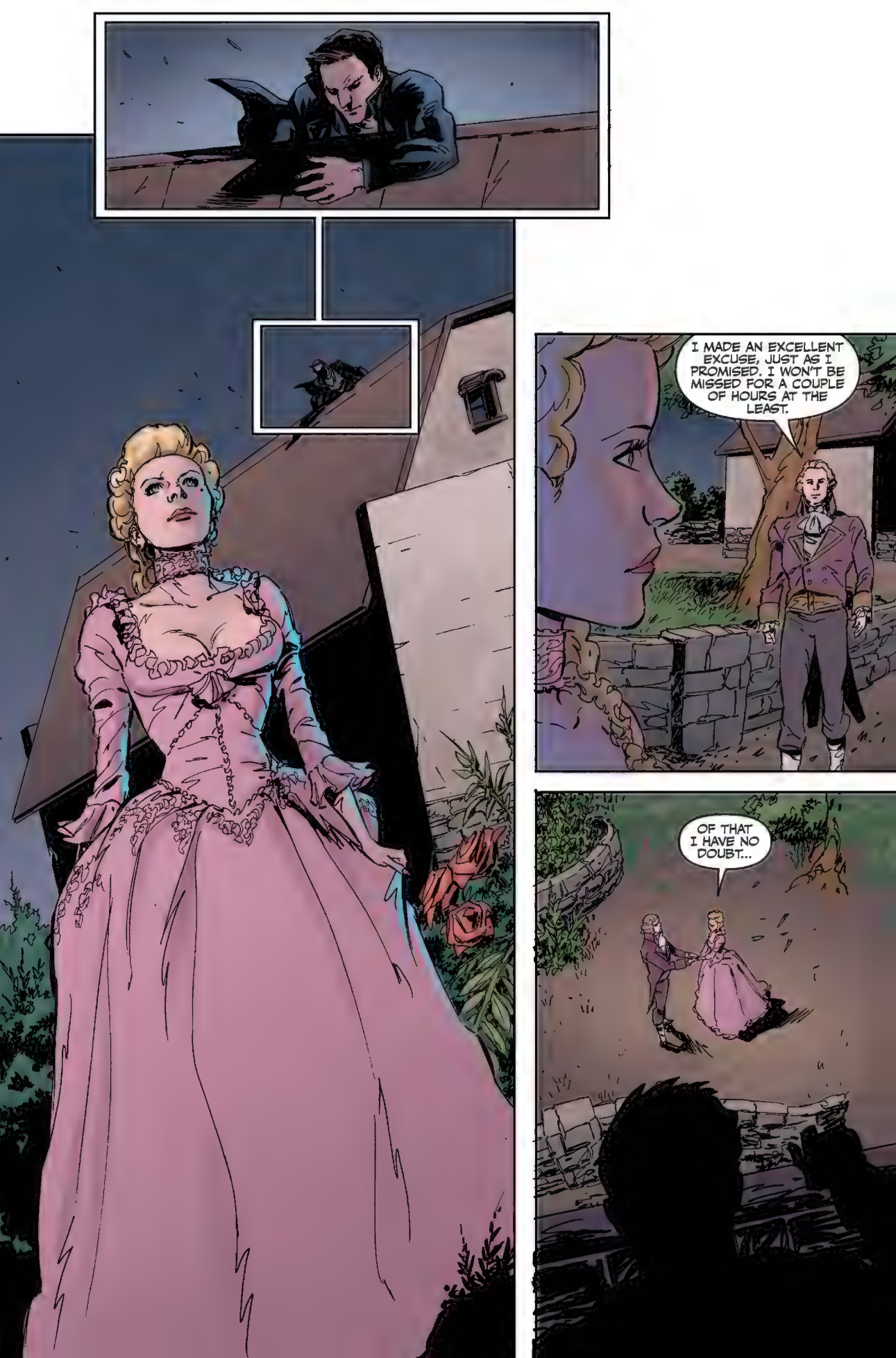
OH NO...
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
NOT EXACTLY...
HE'S JUST VISITING GALWAY...
BUT HE'LL NEVER LEAVE HERE. DARLA'S GOING TO SEE TO THAT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SORRY, FRED. I'M GOING TO GET TO THEIR RENDEZVOUS POINT FIRST. THIS IS ONE LIFE THAT *WON'T* BE LOST TONIGHT.

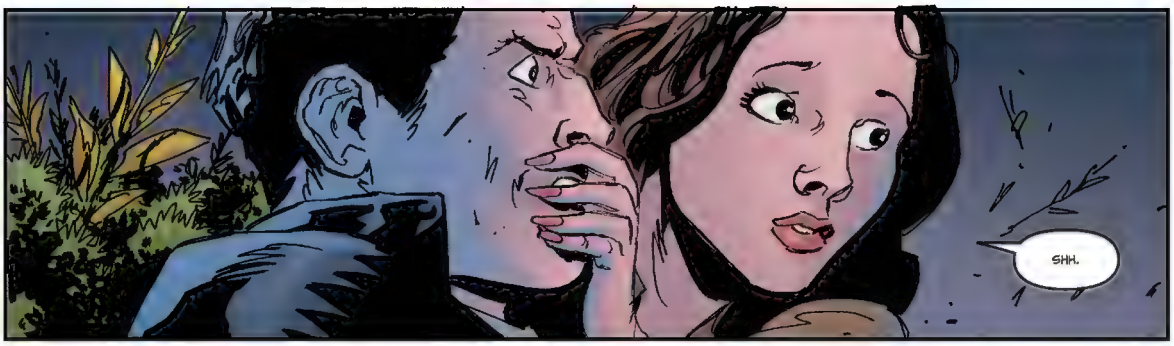
ANGEL, *WAIT!*

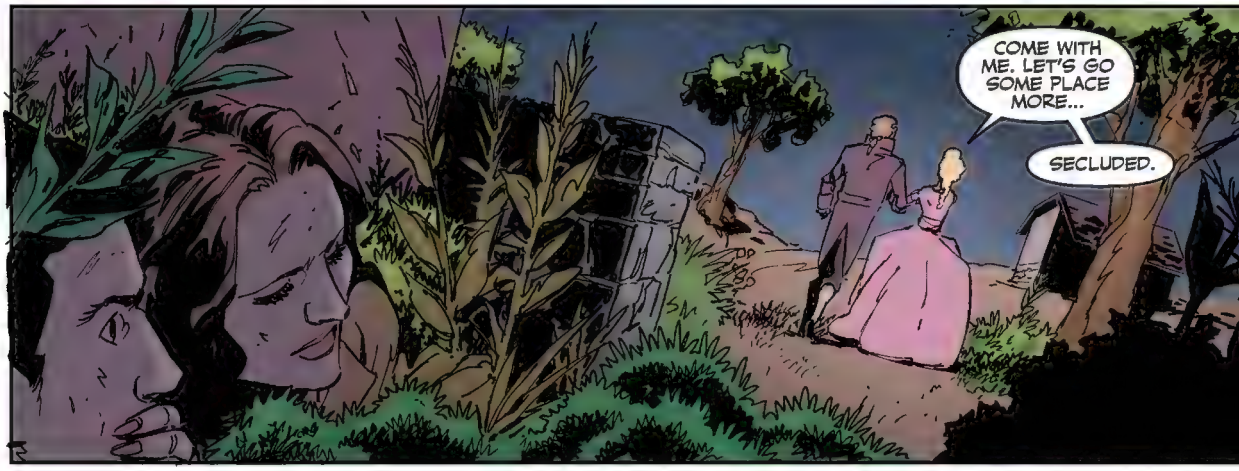
NOT GOOD.

NOT GOOD AT ALL.


I MADE AN EXCELLENT EXCUSE, JUST AS I PROMISED. I WON'T BE MISSED FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS AT THE LEAST.
OF THAT I HAVE NO DOUBT...

NOT THIS TIME...
WH--
SHRMP
WHAT WAS THAT?


SHH.

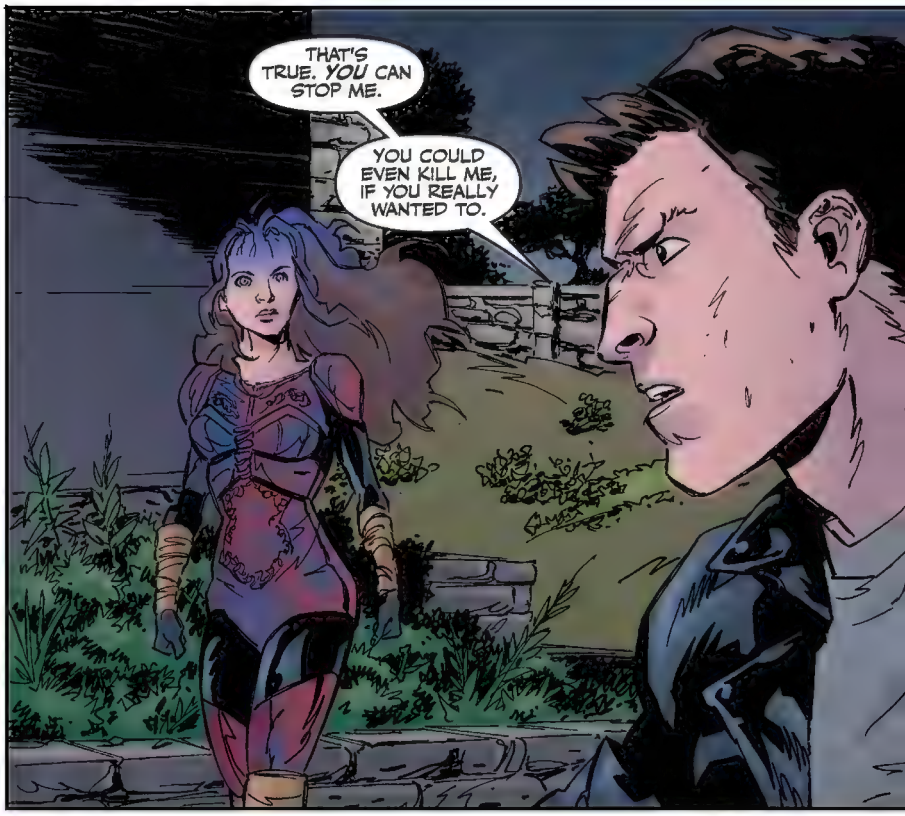

COME WITH ME. LET'S GO SOME PLACE MORE...
SECLUDED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?*
I DON'T WANT THAT GUY TO DIE EITHER! BUT ANGEL, HE'S *ALREADY* DEAD. WE SHOULDN'T CHANGE THAT!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, THEN? *YOU'RE* NOT, BUT I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU ACCIDENTALLY BACK THERE! DON'T *EVER* DO THAT AGAIN!

YOU REALLY THINK WHAT WE'RE DOING IS WRONG?
I DO.
I DON'T AGREE, FRED. THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO FIX THINGS. I'M NOT GIVING THAT UP WITHOUT A FIGHT.

IF WE CAN'T EVEN HELP PEOPLE, WHAT *GOOD* ARE WE DOING?

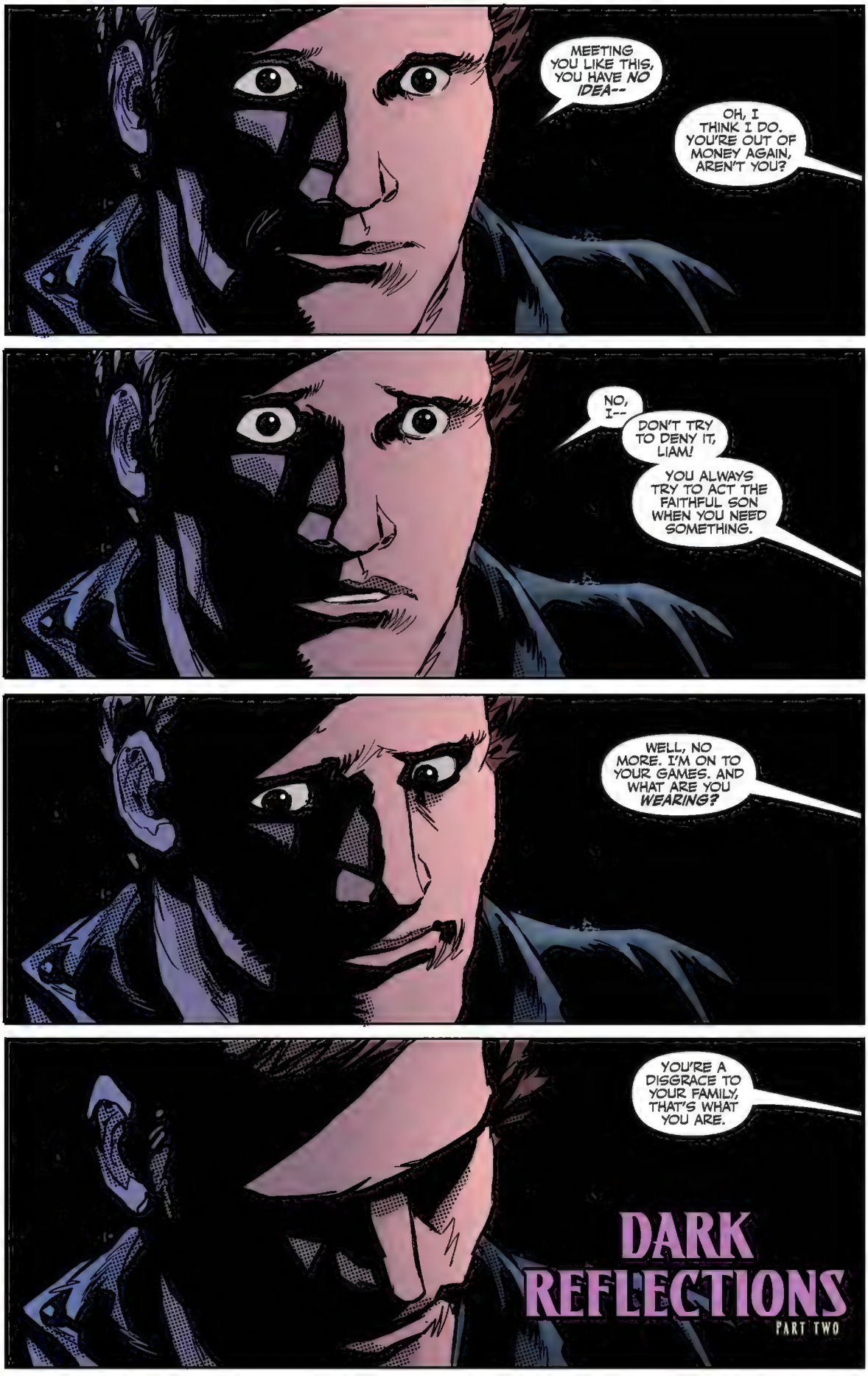
SHE CAN'T STOP YOU. BUT I CAN.


THAT'S TRUE. YOU CAN STOP ME.
YOU COULD EVEN KILL ME, IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO.

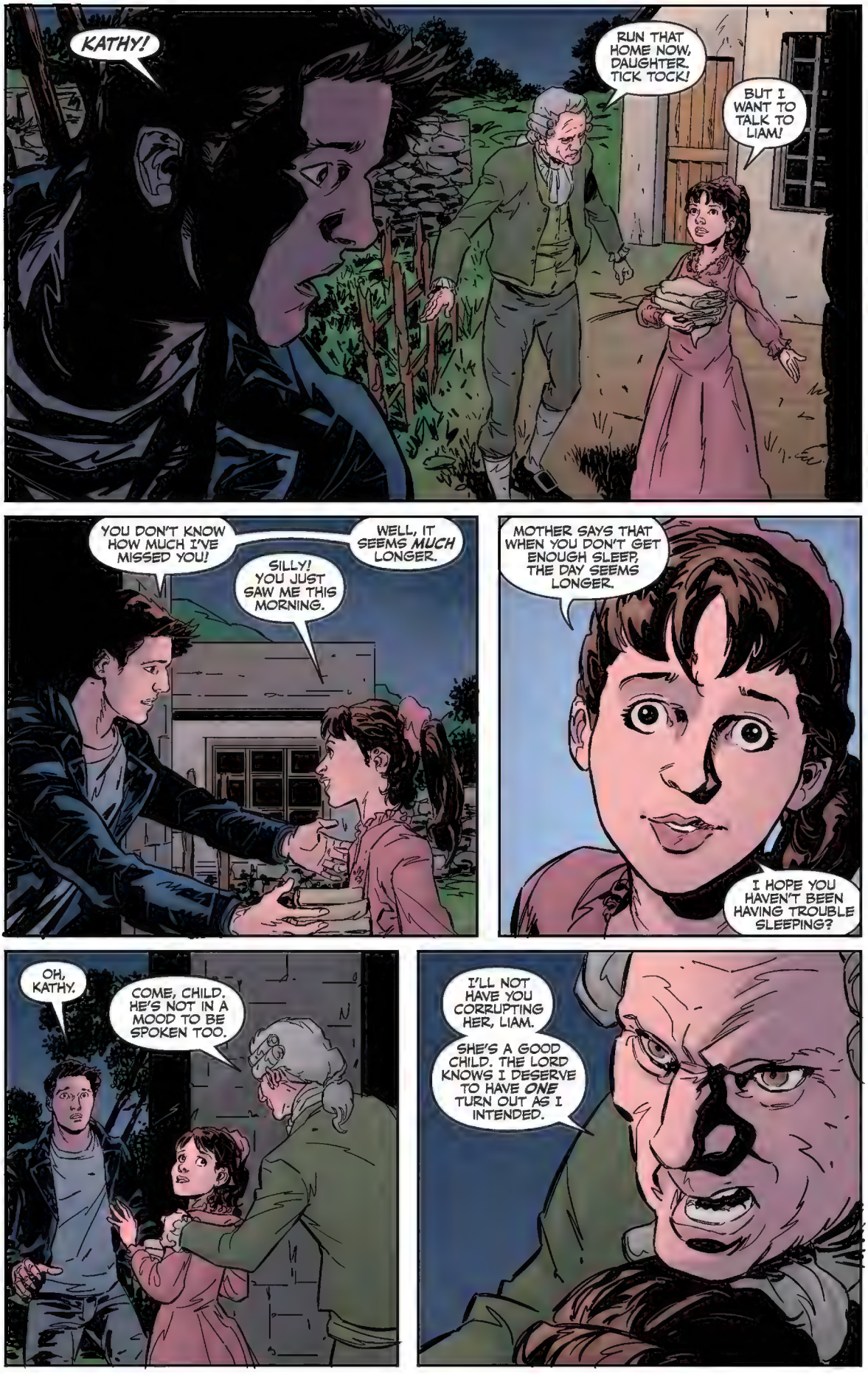
BUT WILL YOU?

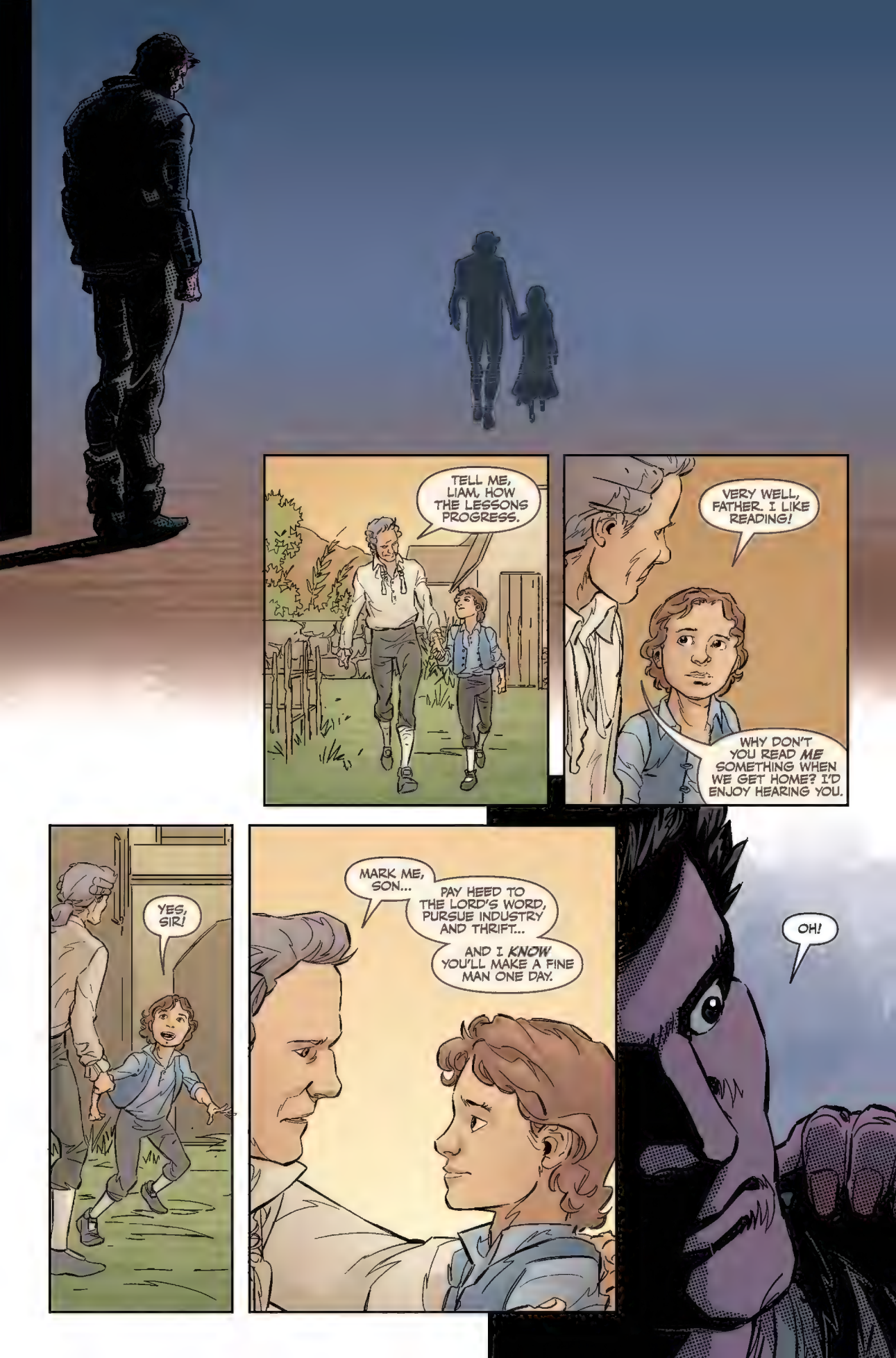
WAS MY WORLD EVER TRULY SO SMALL?
LIAM!

LIAM, WHY AREN'T YOU AT HOME?
UM...
FATHER? IS THAT REALLY YOU?
OF COURSE IT IS. HAVE YOU TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR WITS NOW AS WELL AS YOUR MORALS?
FATHER, YOU AND I HAVE SOME CATCHING UP TO DO...


MEETING YOU LIKE THIS, YOU HAVE NO IDEA--
OH, I THINK I DO. YOU'RE OUT OF MONEY AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
NO, I--
DON'T TRY TO DENY IT, LIAM!
YOU ALWAYS TRY TO ACT THE FAITHFUL SON WHEN YOU NEED SOMETHING.
WELL, NO MORE. I'M ON TO YOUR GAMES. AND WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO YOUR FAMILY, THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.
DARK REFLECTIONS
PART TWO

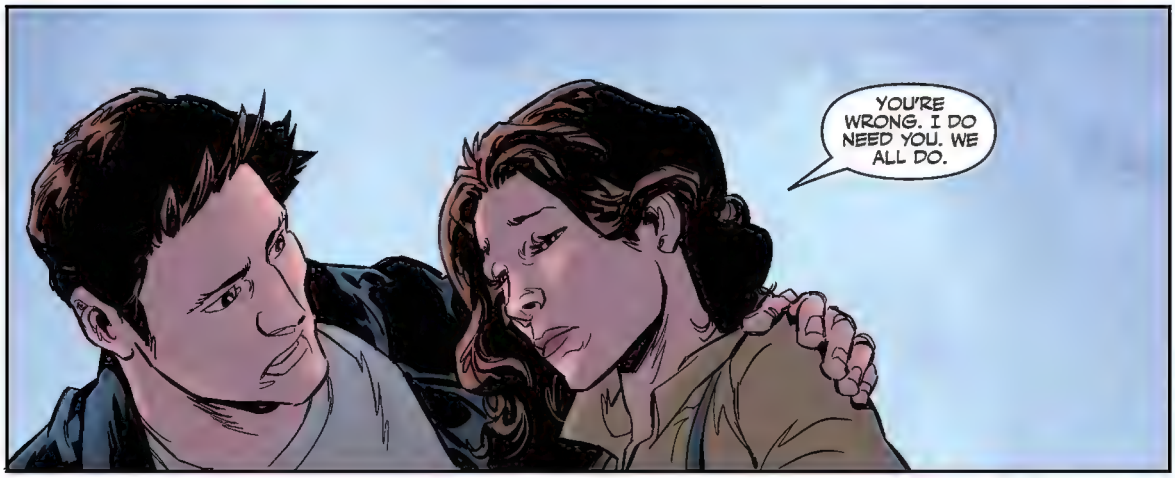
I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST...
...SOMEHOW, YOU ALWAYS DID BRING OUT THE WORST IN--
OH NO, *THAT* I WILL NOT ACCEPT.
WHATEVER IS BAD IN YOU DID *NOT* COME FROM ME. I BROUGHT YOU UP PROPER. YOUR HELL-BOUND WAYS ARE *YOUR* DOING.
MARK MY WORDS, TROUBLE WILL FIND YOU WHEN YOU GO SEARCHING FOR IT.
FINE! YOU WIN, FATHER. I'M OFF.
LIAM? DON'T GO!


KATHY!
RUN THAT HOME NOW, DAUGHTER. TICK TOCK!
BUT I WANT TO TALK TO LIAM!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I'VE MISSED YOU!
SILLY! YOU JUST SAW ME THIS MORNING.
WELL, IT SEEMS *MUCH* LONGER.
MOTHER SAYS THAT WHEN YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP, THE DAY SEEMS LONGER.
I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING?
OH, KATHY.
COME, CHILD. HE'S NOT IN A MOOD TO BE SPOKEN TOO.
I'LL NOT HAVE YOU CORRUPTING HER, LIAM.
SHE'S A GOOD CHILD. THE LORD KNOWS I DESERVE TO HAVE *ONE* TURN OUT AS I INTENDED.


TELL ME, LIAM, HOW THE LESSONS PROGRESS.
VERY WELL, FATHER. I LIKE READING!
WHY DON'T YOU READ ME SOMETHING WHEN WE GET HOME? I'D ENJOY HEARING YOU.
YES, SIR!
MARK ME, SON...
PAY HEED TO THE LORD'S WORD, PURSUE INDUSTRY AND THRIFT...
AND I KNOW YOU'LL MAKE A FINE MAN ONE DAY.
OH!

COME BACK, ANGEL. COME BACK FROM THE PAST.
IT'S ALL SO RAW STILL, FRED. SO EASY TO SEE WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN.
I KNOW. BUT FOR EVERY FIX HERE THERE'S A CORRESPONDING BREAK IN THE FUTURE.
MAYBE THAT'S OKAY. MAYBE NONE OF *THIS* WAS MEANT TO HAPPEN LIKE IT DID.
THINKING LIKE THAT CAN DRIVE YOU CRAZY. WE ALL HAVE REGRETS. ALL WE CAN DO IS LEARN FROM THEM AND TRY TO DO BETTER NEXT TIME.
THAT'S TRUE FOR MOST PEOPLE. *NOT* FOR US.
ANGEL, I UNDERSTAND. I MEAN, I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A SITUATION WHERE I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE MY WHOLE FAMILY FROM BEING SLAUGHTERED, BUT I COULDN'T BECAUSE SAVING THEM WOULD DOOM THE FUTURE...
OH, HELL, I'M JUST MAKING THIS *WORSE*, AREN'T I?
YOU'RE CERTAINLY PUTTING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.
LOOK, I KNOW YOU CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT SAVING YOUR FAMILY. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR *CURRENT* FAMILY?
WHAT ABOUT *YOUR* SON? IF LIAM DOESN'T MEET UP WITH DARLA, CONNOR WILL NEVER BE BORN!

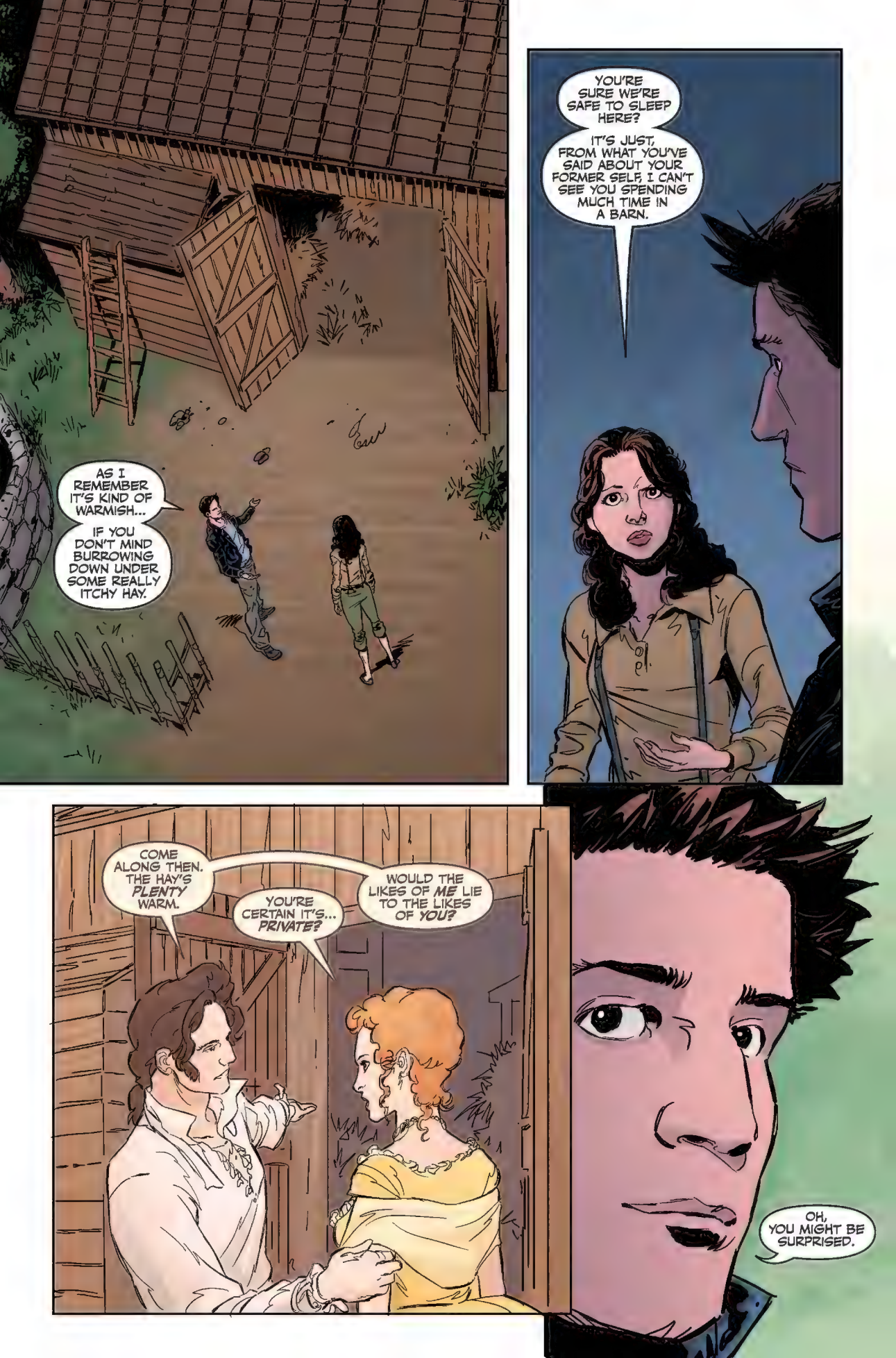
WOULD THAT REALLY BE SO BAD?
THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH PAIN IN HIS LIFE...
IMAGINE, IF I NEVER EXISTED AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN USELESS LIAM. SO MUCH PAIN WOULD BE AVOIDED, FOR SO MANY...
ANGEL, NO!
WITHOUT YOU SO MUCH MORE SUFFERING WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
I MEAN, YOU'VE SAVED THE WORLD. MORE THAN ONCE!
AND THAT'S JUST THE BIG STUFF!
WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO YOU'VE HELPED? I'D STILL BE STUCK IN THAT HELL DIMENSION IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG!
YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND A WAY HOME.
YOU'RE ONE OF THE SMARTEST, MOST RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE I KNOW. YOU DON'T NEED ME.


YOU'RE WRONG. I DO NEED YOU. WE ALL DO.

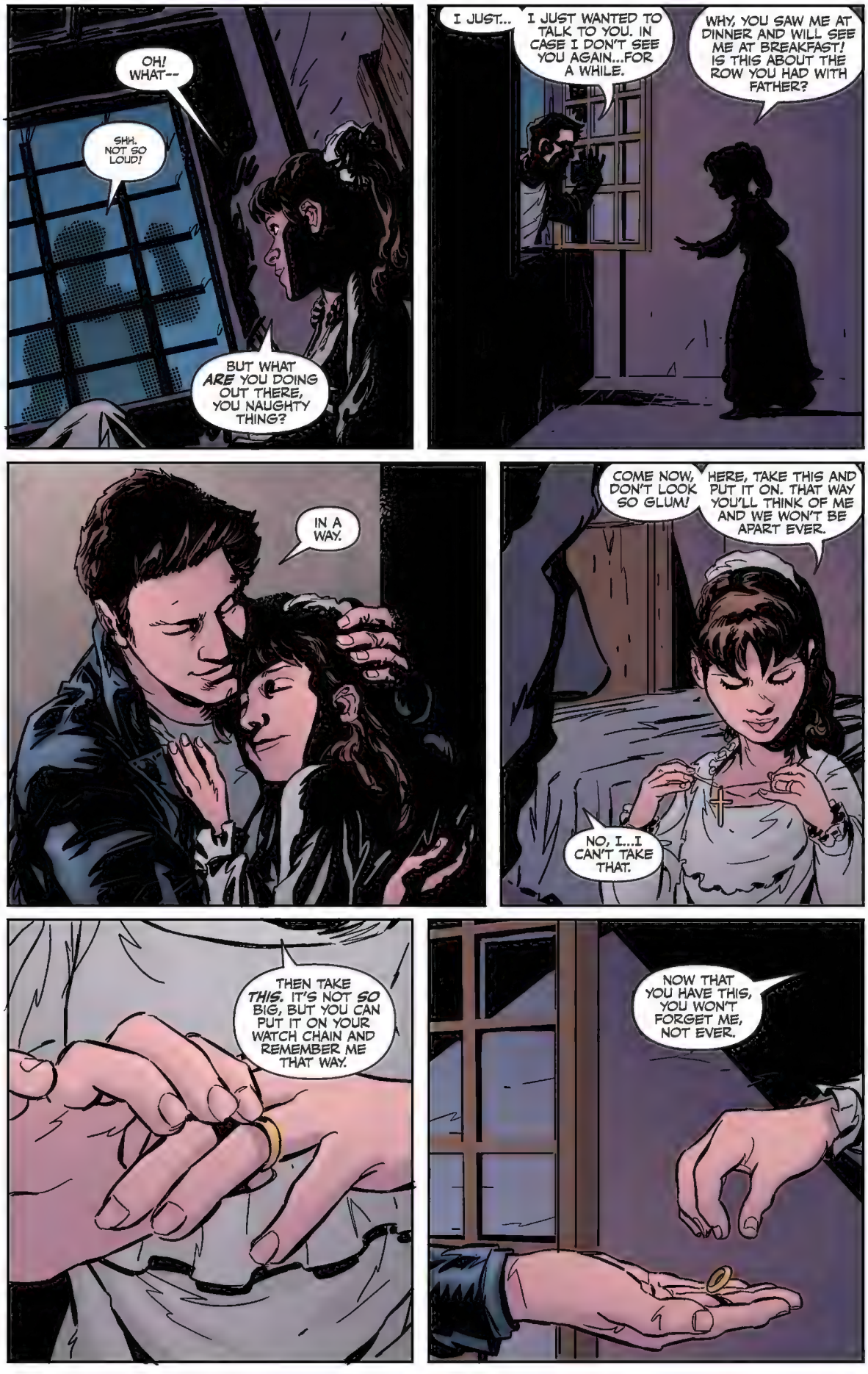
AW, NONE OF THAT.
COME ON. YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED.
TIME TRAVEL DOES MESS WITH YOUR SLEEP SCHEDULE, I GUESS. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE WE'VE HAD ANY.

WE'RE WORKING ON A JAG, ALL RIGHT.
MAYBE IF YOU'RE RESTED ILLYRIA WILL HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO GET US HOME.

LEAD THE WAY!
I'M SO TIRED I DON'T EVEN MIND IF WE END UP IN A CAVE, SO LONG AS IT'S WARM.

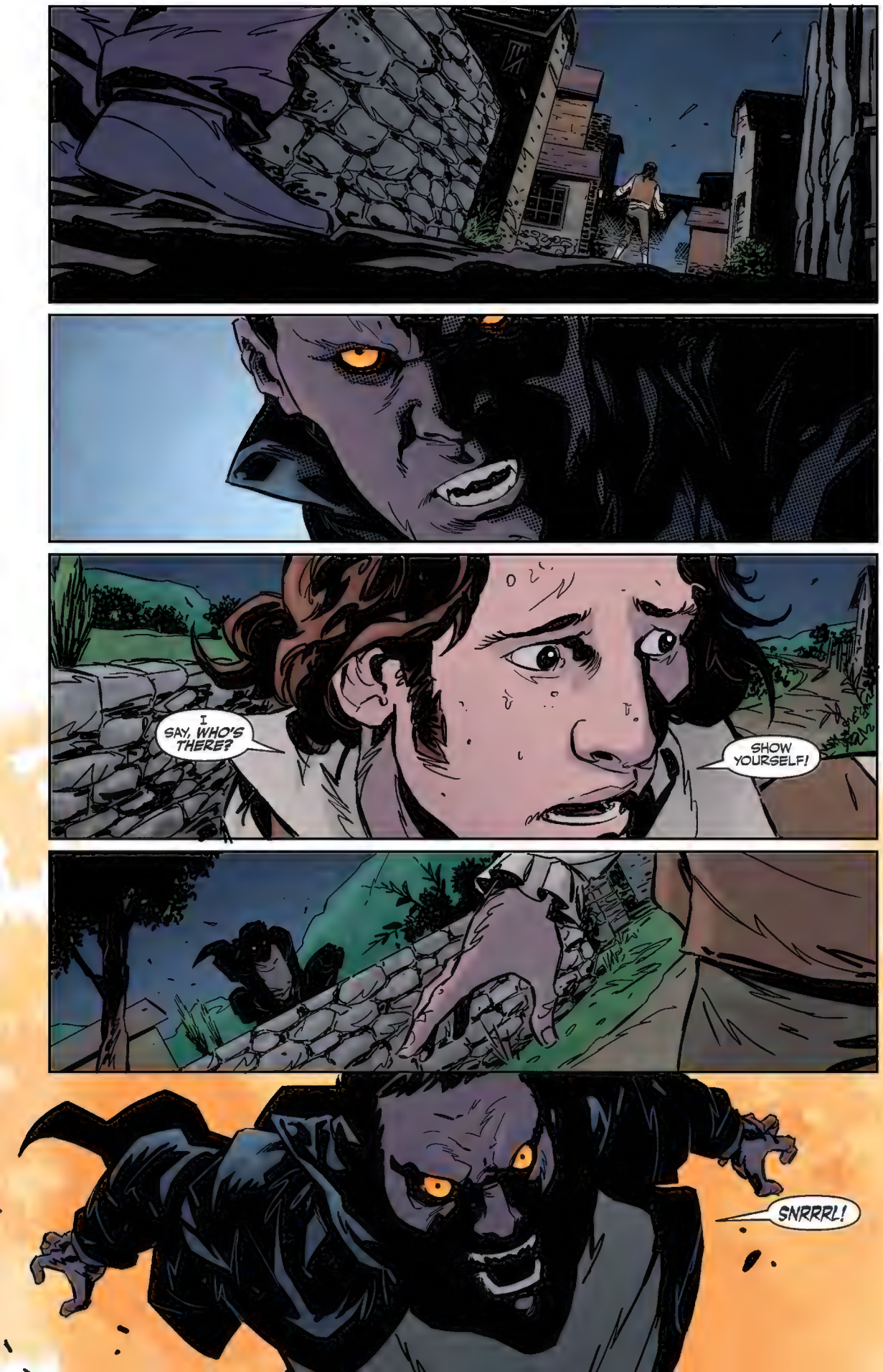

AS I REMEMBER IT'S KIND OF WARMISH...
IF YOU DON'T MIND BURROWING DOWN UNDER SOME REALLY ITCHY HAY.
YOU'RE SURE WE'RE SAFE TO SLEEP HERE?
IT'S JUST, FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID ABOUT YOUR FORMER SELF, I CAN'T SEE YOU SPENDING MUCH TIME IN A BARN.
COME ALONG THEN. THE HAY'S *PLENTY* WARM.
YOU'RE CERTAIN IT'S... *PRIVATE?*
WOULD THE LIKES OF *ME* LIE TO THE LIKES OF *YOU?*
OH, YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED.

FRED...
ARE YOU ASLEEP?
TAK TAK

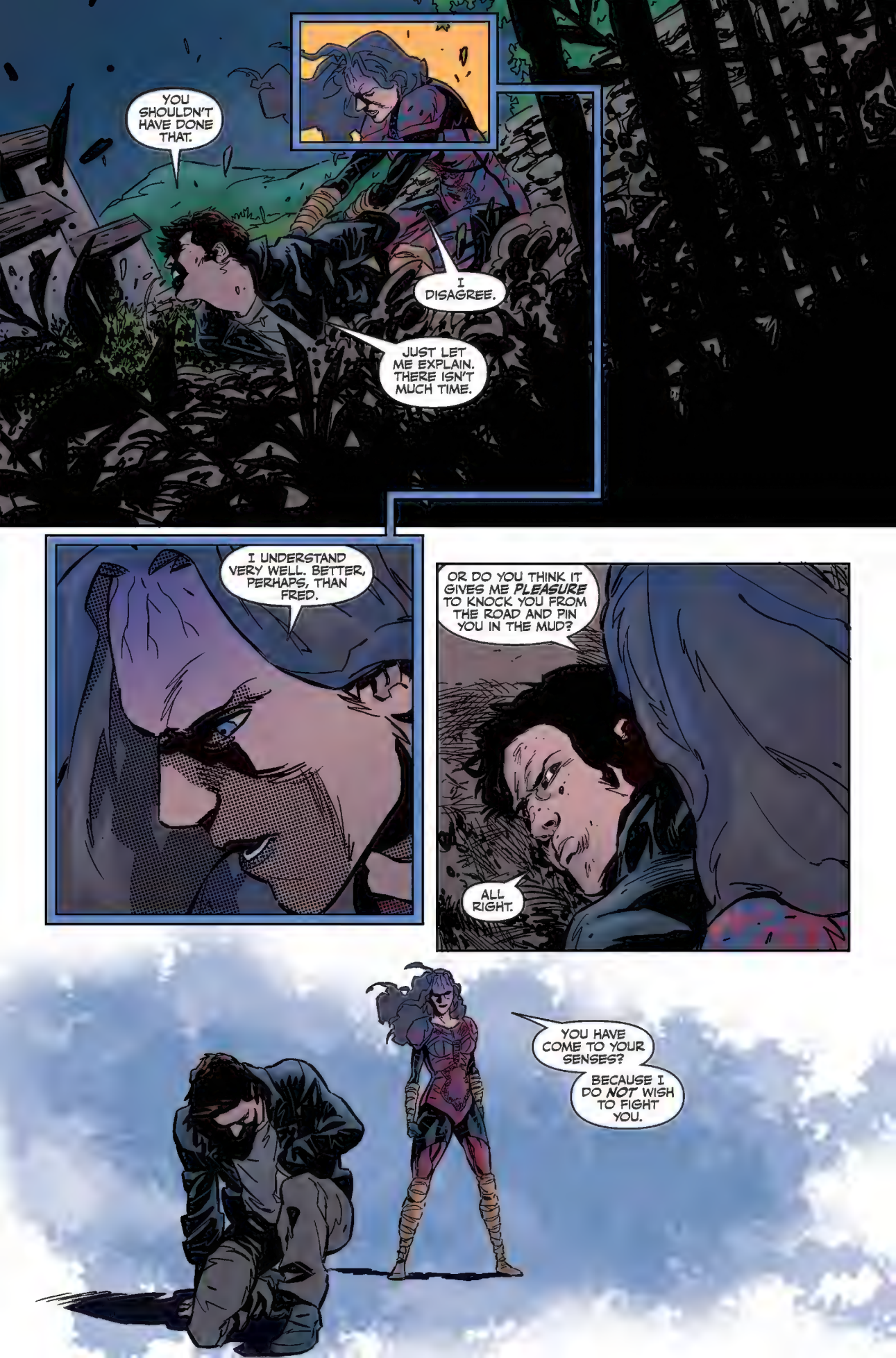

OH! WHAT--
SHH. NOT SO LOUD!
BUT WHAT *ARE* YOU DOING OUT THERE, YOU NAUGHTY THING?
I JUST...
I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO YOU. IN CASE I DON'T SEE YOU AGAIN...FOR A WHILE.
WHY, YOU SAW ME AT DINNER AND WILL SEE ME AT BREAKFAST! IS THIS ABOUT THE ROW YOU HAD WITH FATHER?
IN A WAY.
COME NOW, DON'T LOOK SO GLUM!
HERE, TAKE THIS AND PUT IT ON. THAT WAY YOU'LL THINK OF ME AND WE WON'T BE APART EVER.
NO, I...I CAN'T TAKE THAT.
THEN TAKE *THIS.* IT'S NOT *SO* BIG, BUT YOU CAN PUT IT ON YOUR WATCH CHAIN AND REMEMBER ME THAT WAY.
NOW THAT YOU HAVE THIS, YOU WON'T FORGET ME, NOT EVER.

YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT.
NOW CLOSE THIS WINDOW BEFORE YOU CATCH YOUR DEATH OF THE NIGHT AIR!

SCRP
DO YOU FOLLOW, LASS? AM I *THAT* IRRESISTIBLE?
ONLY THE WIND...


I SAY, WHO'S THERE?
SHOW YOURSELF!
SNRRRL!

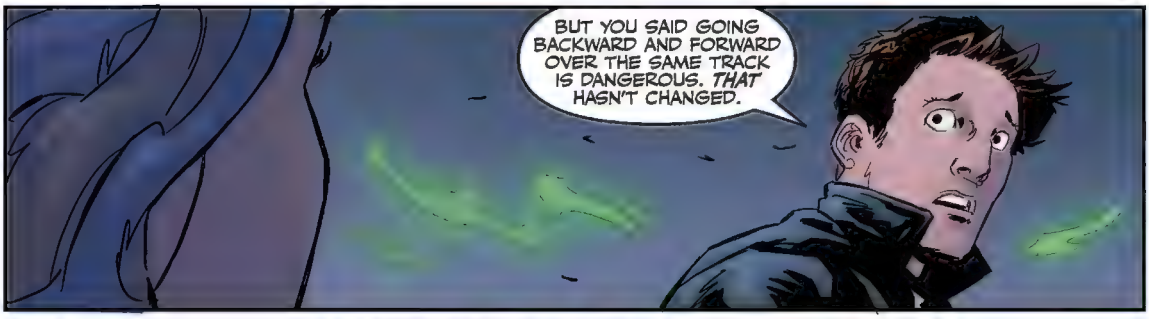
GAH!
QUASH
FRED MIGHT HAVE BEEN SLEEPING WHEN YOU LEFT...
BUT I WASN'T.


YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.
I DISAGREE.
JUST LET ME EXPLAIN. THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME.
I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL. BETTER, PERHAPS, THAN FRED.
OR DO YOU THINK IT GIVES ME *PLEASURE* TO KNOCK YOU FROM THE ROAD AND PIN YOU IN THE MUD?
ALL RIGHT.
YOU HAVE COME TO YOUR SENSES?
BECAUSE I DO *NOT* WISH TO FIGHT YOU.

THEN WE ARE AGREED? THIS WAS A BAD IDEA?
DEPENDS ON WHICH PART YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
SO YOU *DO* WANT TO FIGHT?
NO.
WELL, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO IF YOU WANT TO KEEP ME FROM *SAVING MY FAMILY.*
NO.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NO, NOT NOW!
YOU CAN'T!
YOU ARE WRONG. I CAN. WHAT I CAN'T DO IS TAKE US VERY FAR JUST YET.
NO!

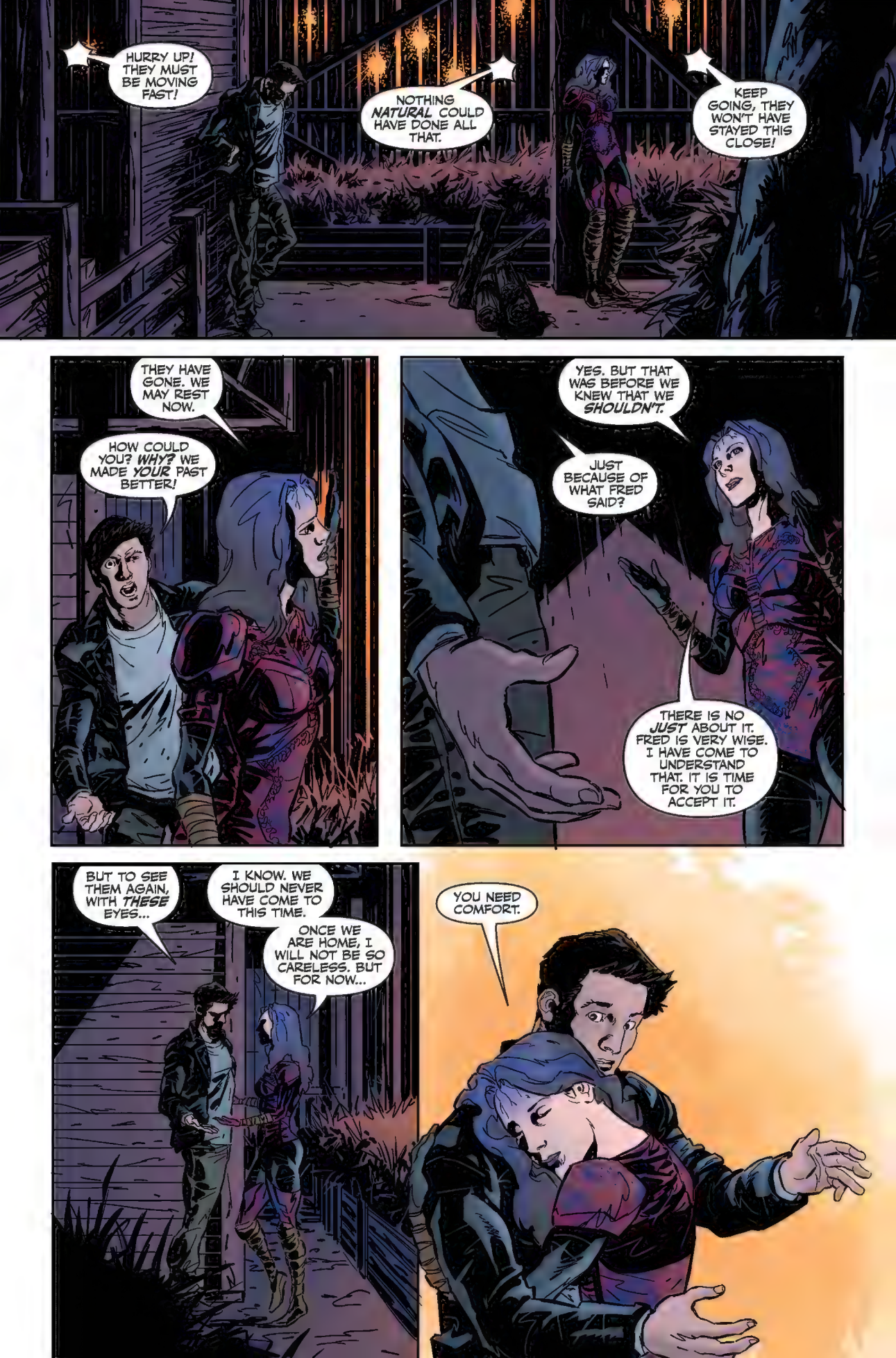
WE DIDN'T TRAVEL! IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
IT IS LATE ENOUGH.


BUT YOU SAID GOING BACKWARD AND FORWARD OVER THE SAME TRACK IS DANGEROUS. *THAT* HASN'T CHANGED.

IT HAS NOT...
BUT SOMETIMES ***CONSEQUENCES*** OVERBURDEN ***RISK.***

NO...

TOO LATE...
I'VE ALREADY DONE IT...
NOT YOU...
ANGELUS. IT WAS HE WHO SLEW YOUR FAMILY.
NOT THIS TIME. THIS TIME IT'S YOUR FAULT!
THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY. I COULD NOT LET YOU DESTROY YOURSE--
LOOK, THERE'S LIGHT AT THAT HOUSE!
THEY HAVE DISCOVERED THE OTHER PLACES VISITED BY DARLA AND ANGELUS THIS NIGHT.
WE MUST GO, OR BE THOUGHT RESPONSIBLE.
LET THEM. I DON'T CARE ANY MORE.
BUT YOU WILL CARE, IF I HAVE TO KILL THEM TO SAVE YOU.


HURRY UP! THEY MUST BE MOVING FAST!
NOTHING *NATURAL* COULD HAVE DONE ALL THAT.
KEEP GOING, THEY WON'T HAVE STAYED THIS CLOSE!
THEY HAVE GONE. WE MAY REST NOW.
HOW COULD YOU? *WHY?* WE MADE *YOUR* PAST BETTER!
YES. BUT THAT WAS BEFORE WE KNEW THAT WE *SHOULDN'T.*
JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT FRED SAID?
THERE IS NO *JUST* ABOUT IT. FRED IS VERY WISE. I HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT. IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO ACCEPT IT.
BUT TO SEE THEM AGAIN, WITH *THESE* EYES...
I KNOW. WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO THIS TIME.
ONCE WE ARE HOME, I WILL NOT BE SO CARELESS. BUT FOR NOW...
YOU NEED COMFORT.

YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE DAMAGE THAT ENDING YOURSELF HERE WOULD HAVE DONE?
WOULD THINGS HAVE REALLY BEEN SO DIFFERENT? THINK OF ALL THE DAMAGE I *WOULDN'T* HAVE DONE.
AND THEN THINK OF THE WORLD, AND OF PEOPLE LIKE FRED...AND ME. I AM *BETTER* BECAUSE OF YOU, ANGEL.
THE PAST... *IT IS PAST.*

I HAVE LEARNED THIS. THE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED MAKE US WHO WE ARE *NOW.*
SEEING IT AGAIN DOESN'T MAKE THAT ANY LESS THE CASE. NOR DOES CHANGING IT.

UNLESS YOU GO AND DO SOMETHING SO IRREPARABLY STUPID THAT YOU GET US ALL KILLED.

I JUST WISH NONE OF THIS HAD HAPPENED.
IN THAT, WE ARE AS ONE.

SOMETIMES, YOU ALMOST SEEM--
NO, NEVER THAT...
HUMAN?
DOES THAT DISAPPOINT YOU?
NOT EVEN A LITTLE.
IS THIS A GOOD IDEA?
PERHAPS HISTORY CAN JUDGE. I CANNOT.

DARK REFLECTIONS
PART THREE
UM, ILLYRIA?
I THINK WE NEED TO TALK...

THEN IT'S TOO BAD ILLYRIA'S NOT HERE, ANGEL.
FRED!

FRED, DO YOU...
WHAT I MEAN IS, WHILE YOU WERE GONE LAST NIGHT...
THAT'S TO SAY, WERE YOU--
YEAH.

AT LEAST, ENOUGH.
KINDA HARD NOT TO LISTEN IN WHEN YOU SHARE ONE SET OF EARS.

YOU KNOW, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH HARDER FOR ME.
AND NOW?

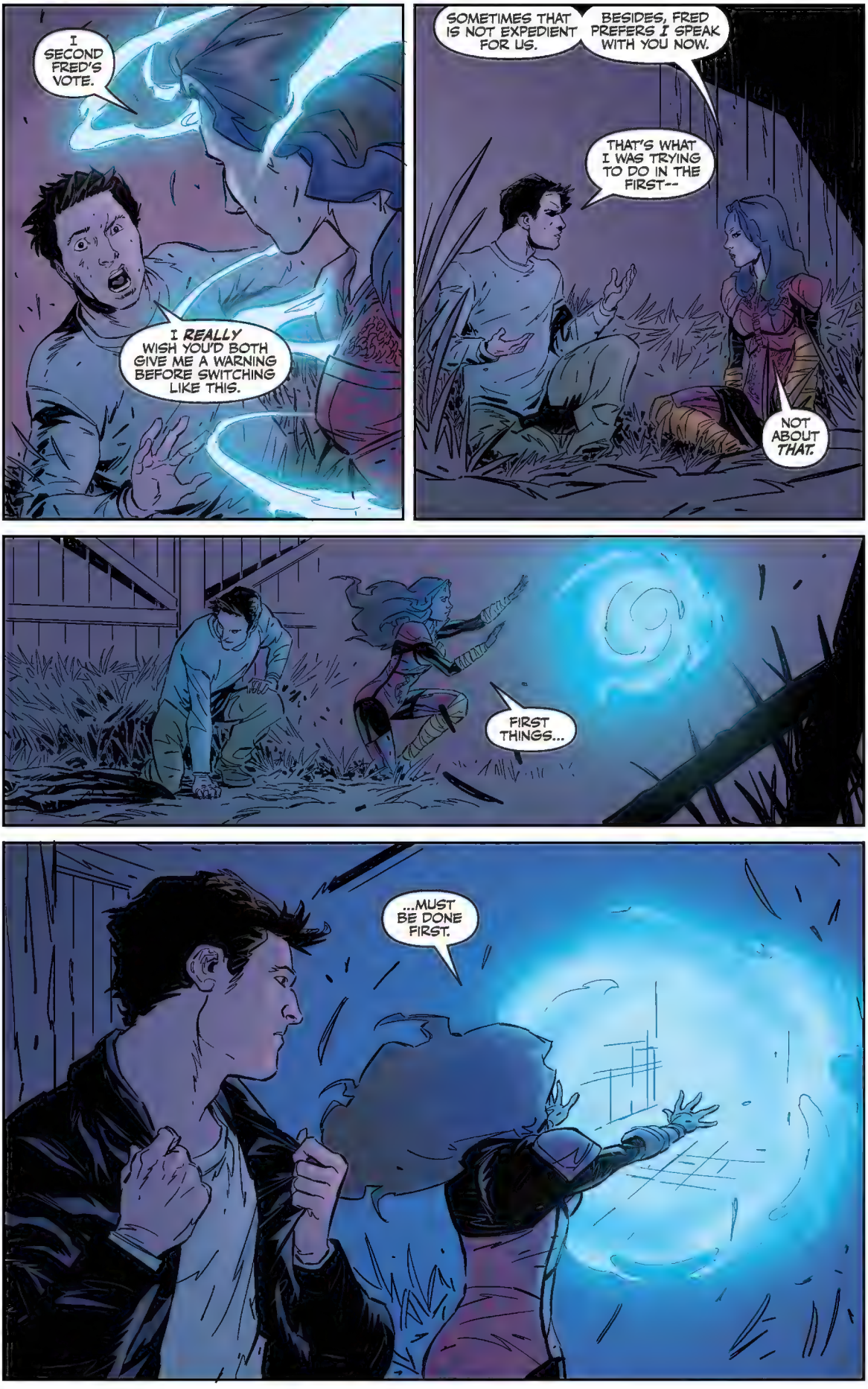
NOW, IT'S JUST...
I DON'T KNOW.
NO MATTER WHAT, IT'S *NOT* WHAT YOU THINK.

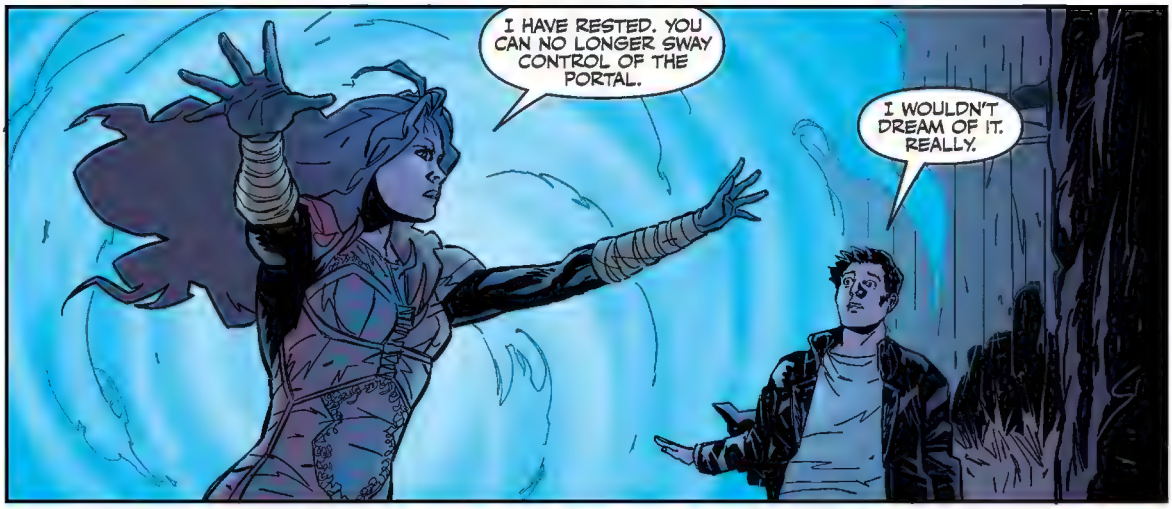
IS THAT REASSURING? BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* TO THINK.
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S A GUIDEBOOK FOR THIS KIND OF THING.
I DOUBT THEY'D SELL MANY COPIES OF *HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUR FORMER CRUSH DATING THE WOMAN WHO SHARES YOUR BODY.*

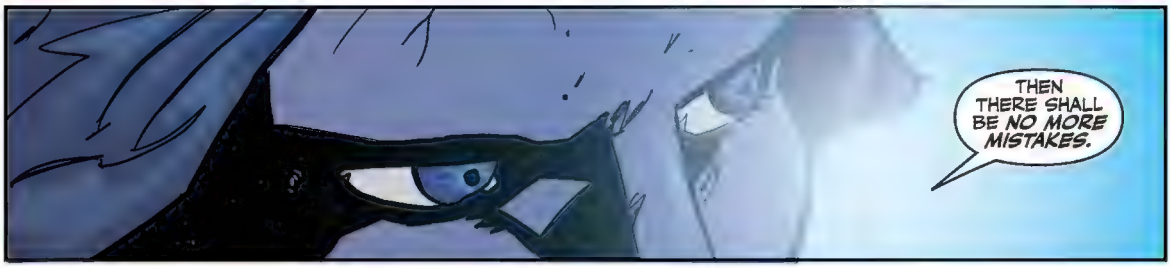
THINGS ARE JUST REALLY TUMULTUOUS RIGHT NOW.
BOTH OF YOU SHOWING UP AT ODD TIMES, SEEING MY FORMER SELF, SEEING DARLA AND ANGELUS, IT'S--
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER STOP RIGHT THERE...

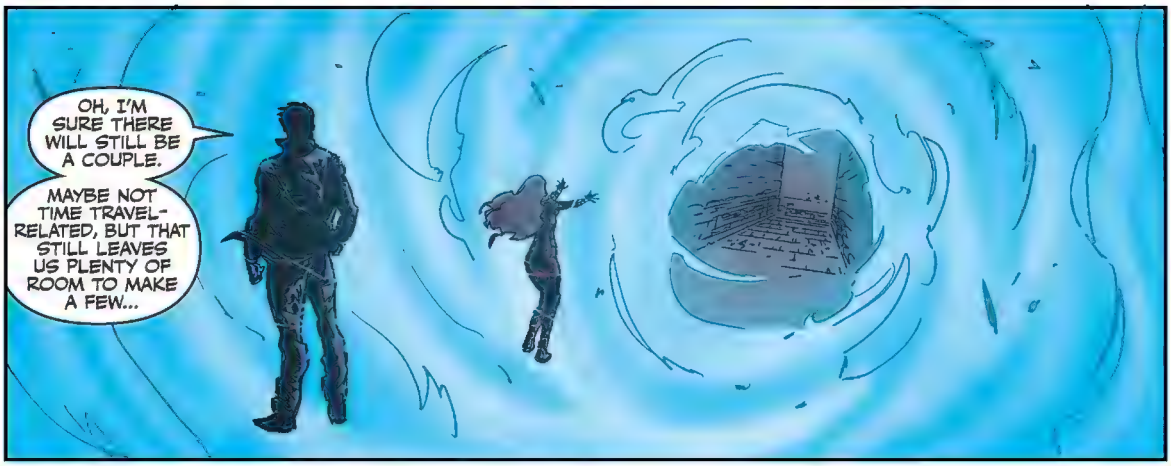
BECAUSE NOT EVERYTHING IS ABOUT *YOU,* YOU KNOW.
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE FEELING CONFUSED AND UNCERTAIN, HOW DO YOU THINK *I* FEEL?
AT LEAST ANGELUS AND LIAM ARE USUALLY JUST MEMORIES FOR YOU. TRY HAVING THEM RENT NEW SPACE IN YOUR HEAD, OR BORROW IT COMPLETELY!

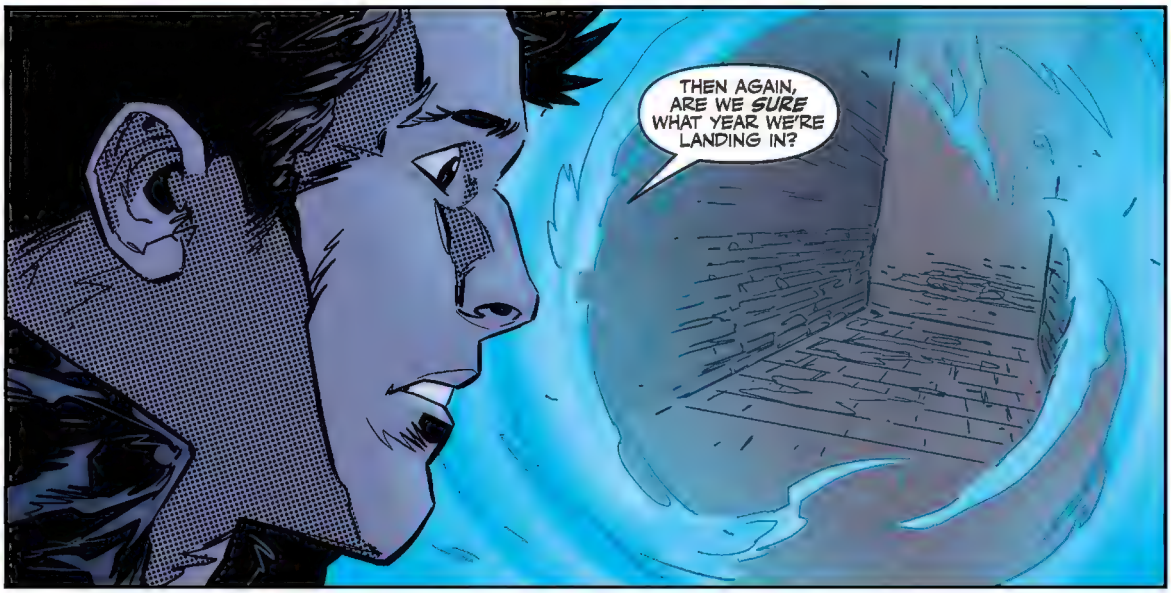
ANYWAY, GOOD TALK, BUT NONE OF IT IS GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD.
I VOTE WE DO THAT FIRST. I'M SURE WE'LL ALL FEEL MUCH BETTER AFTERWARD.

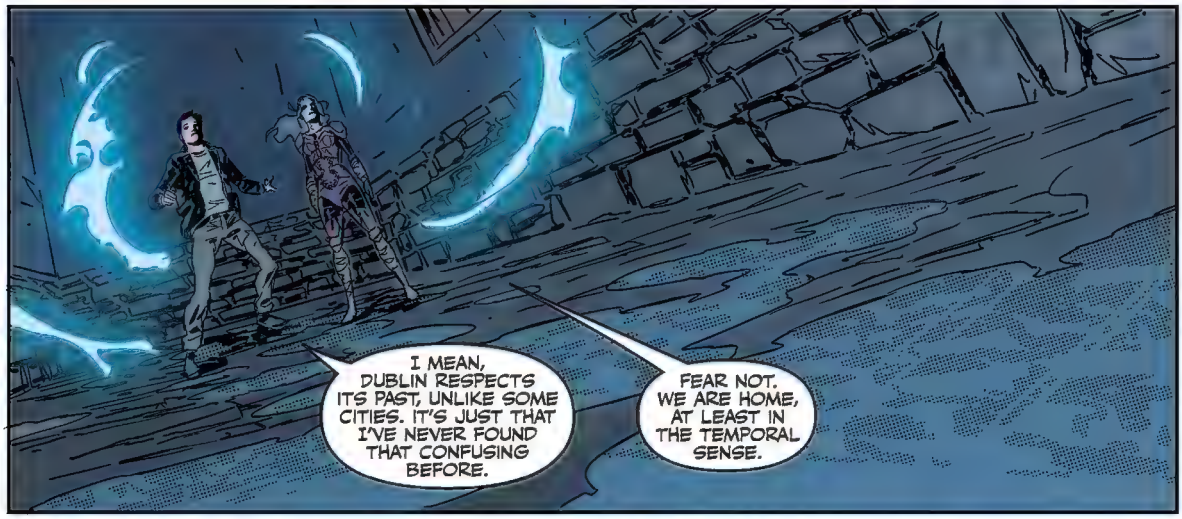

I SECOND FRED'S VOTE.
I *REALLY* WISH YOU'D BOTH GIVE ME A WARNING BEFORE SWITCHING LIKE THIS.
SOMETIMES THAT IS NOT EXPEDIENT FOR US.
BESIDES, FRED PREFERS *I* SPEAK WITH YOU NOW.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO IN THE FIRST--
NOT ABOUT *THAT.*
FIRST THINGS...
...MUST BE DONE FIRST.

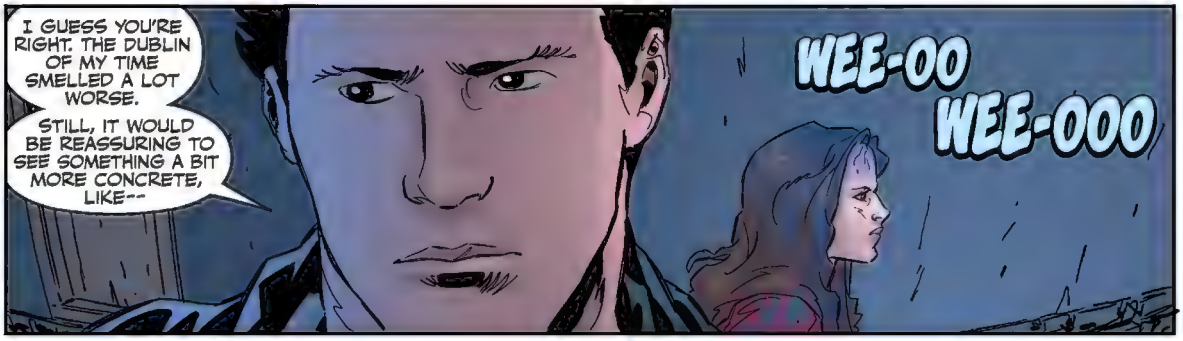

I HAVE RESTED. YOU CAN NO LONGER SWAY CONTROL OF THE PORTAL.
I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT. REALLY.

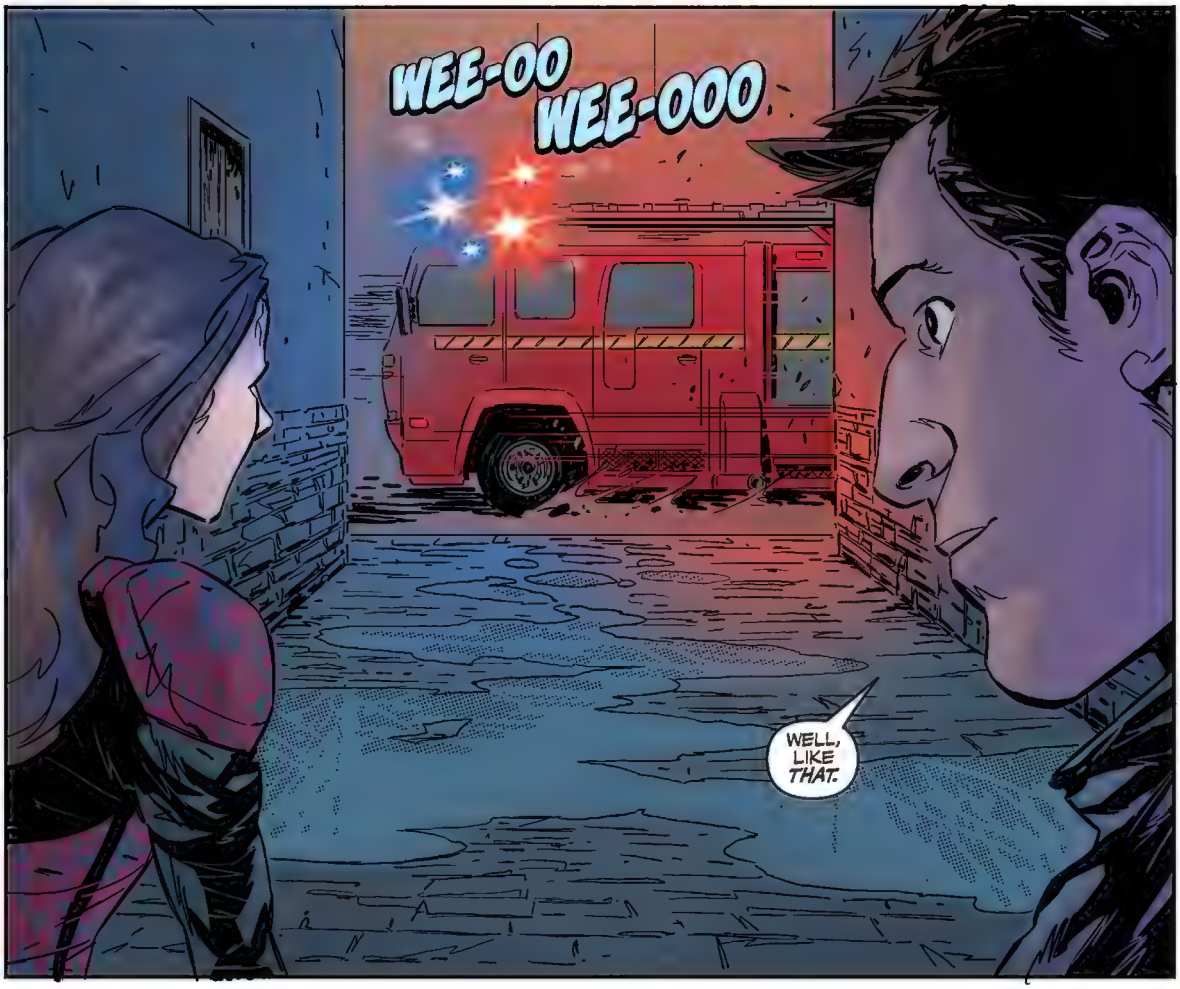

THEN THERE SHALL BE NO MORE MISTAKES.


OH, I'M SURE THERE WILL STILL BE A COUPLE.
MAYBE NOT TIME TRAVEL-RELATED, BUT THAT STILL LEAVES US PLENTY OF ROOM TO MAKE A FEW...


THEN AGAIN, ARE WE SURE WHAT YEAR WE'RE LANDING IN?


I MEAN, DUBLIN RESPECTS ITS PAST, UNLIKE SOME CITIES. IT'S JUST THAT I'VE NEVER FOUND THAT CONFUSING BEFORE.
FEAR NOT. WE ARE HOME, AT LEAST IN THE TEMPORAL SENSE.


I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. THE DUBLIN OF MY TIME SMELLED A LOT WORSE.
STILL, IT WOULD BE REASSURING TO SEE SOMETHING A BIT MORE CONCRETE, LIKE--
WEE-OO
WEE-OOO


WEE-OO
WEE-OOO
WELL, LIKE *THAT.*

WAS THERE AN EMERGENCY IN THIS CITY THE NIGHT WE LEFT?
NOT THAT I KNOW OF, BUT I WAS A LITTLE PREOCCUPIED.
WEE-UNK
WEE-UNK
WEE-UNK

BUT THERE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE NOW.

WAIT A MINUTE, WHICH WAY IS THE HOTEL WHERE I DID THE EXORCISM?
OR DID IT ALREADY DISINTEGRATE?
IT *WAS* OVER THERE, UNDER ALL THE HELICOPTERS, WASN'T IT?

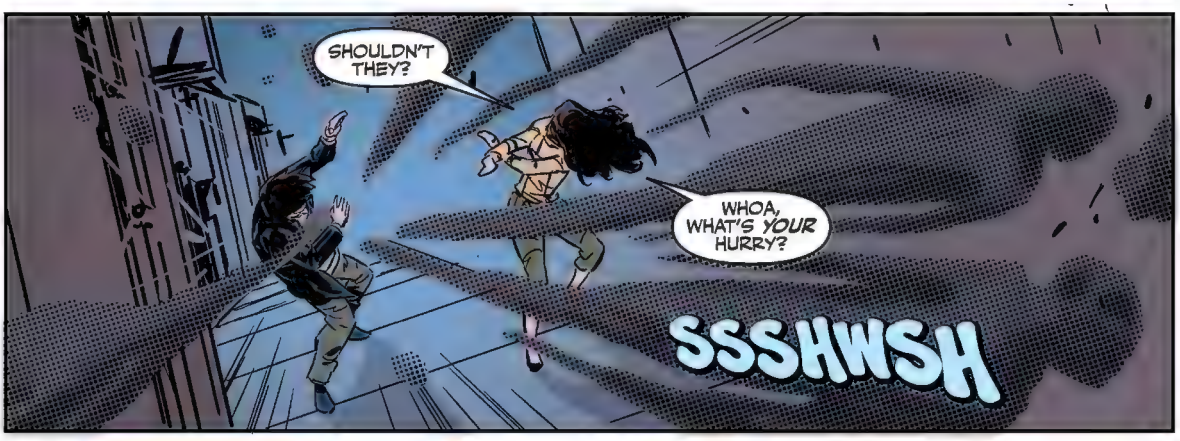
YES, BUT THAT *CANNOT BE.* I RETURNED US TO A TIME ONLY SECONDS AFTER WE ORIGINALLY LEFT.
IF THERE HAD BEEN SO LARGE A PROBLEM SO CLOSE, WE WOULD ALREADY KNOW ABOUT IT.

COME ON. LET'S TAKE A LOOK. MAYBE THERE'S A SIMPLE EXPLANATION.
HEY! WHA--
SHH.
HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPLAIN PROPHECIES?
THAT WASN'T RIGHT...
I MEAN, I REMEMBER FRED SAYING IT. BUT IT SEEMS OFF SOMEHOW. I DON'T THINK THAT'S QUITE HOW SHE PHRASED IT.
IT IS MORE THAN *OFF.* IT IS COMPLETELY *WRONG.*
I WAS *PRECISE.* BUT IF THE FLOW OF TIME ITSELF IS NOT WHAT IT *WAS,* I CAN'T BE RELIED UPON EITHER.
ANGEL, IF THAT IS THE CASE, ANYTHING MIGHT HAPPEN. *ANYTHING AT ALL.*
IF WE DON'T FIX THIS, WE'LL NEVER TAKE THE TRIP WE JUST TOOK. AND *THAT* IS A PARADOX.
WAIT...IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?

I AM ONLY CAPABLE OF MAKING THINGS WORSE. NEVER BETTER.
DON'T SAY THAT.
WHY NOT? IT IS TRUTH.
FAREWELL, ANGEL.
ILLYRIA, WAIT!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ILLYRIA!

FRED, I WASN'T TRYING TO KEEP ILLYRIA HERE BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE *YOU*, YOU KNOW.
IT'S JUST THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THINGS THE WAY THEY WERE AND...
I'M NOT MAKING *THIS* BETTER, AM I?
IF BY "THIS" YOU MEAN THE WAY WE BROKE TIME, THEN *NO*.
BUT IF BY "THIS" YOU MEAN *ANYTHING* ELSE, THEN IT CAN WAIT AND WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT LATER, OKAY?
RIGHT. SAVE THE WORLD FIRST.
ALWAYS A GOOD WAY TO HANDLE--
WHAT WAS THAT?
SHWWSH

THE POLTERGEISTS! THEY'RE FREE FROM THE HOTEL?
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW THEY WORK!
EVEN IF THE HOTEL IS GONE, LOCATION-BASED SPIRITS SHOULD STAY PUT.


SHOULDN'T THEY?
WHOA, WHAT'S *YOUR* HURRY?
SSSHWSH

THEY SEEM *TERRIFIED.*
WHAT DID ILLYRIA SAY ABOUT SMALL SPIRITS, TRAPPED BETWEEN WORLDS, FLEEING SOMETHING WORSE?
WELL, IF IT'S SCARING THEM...

WE'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT.

WELL, AT LEAST THAT SOLVES ONE MYSTERY...
NOW WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HOTEL. NEVER THOUGHT I'D ACCUSE THE AUNTS OF *UNDERSTATEMENT!*

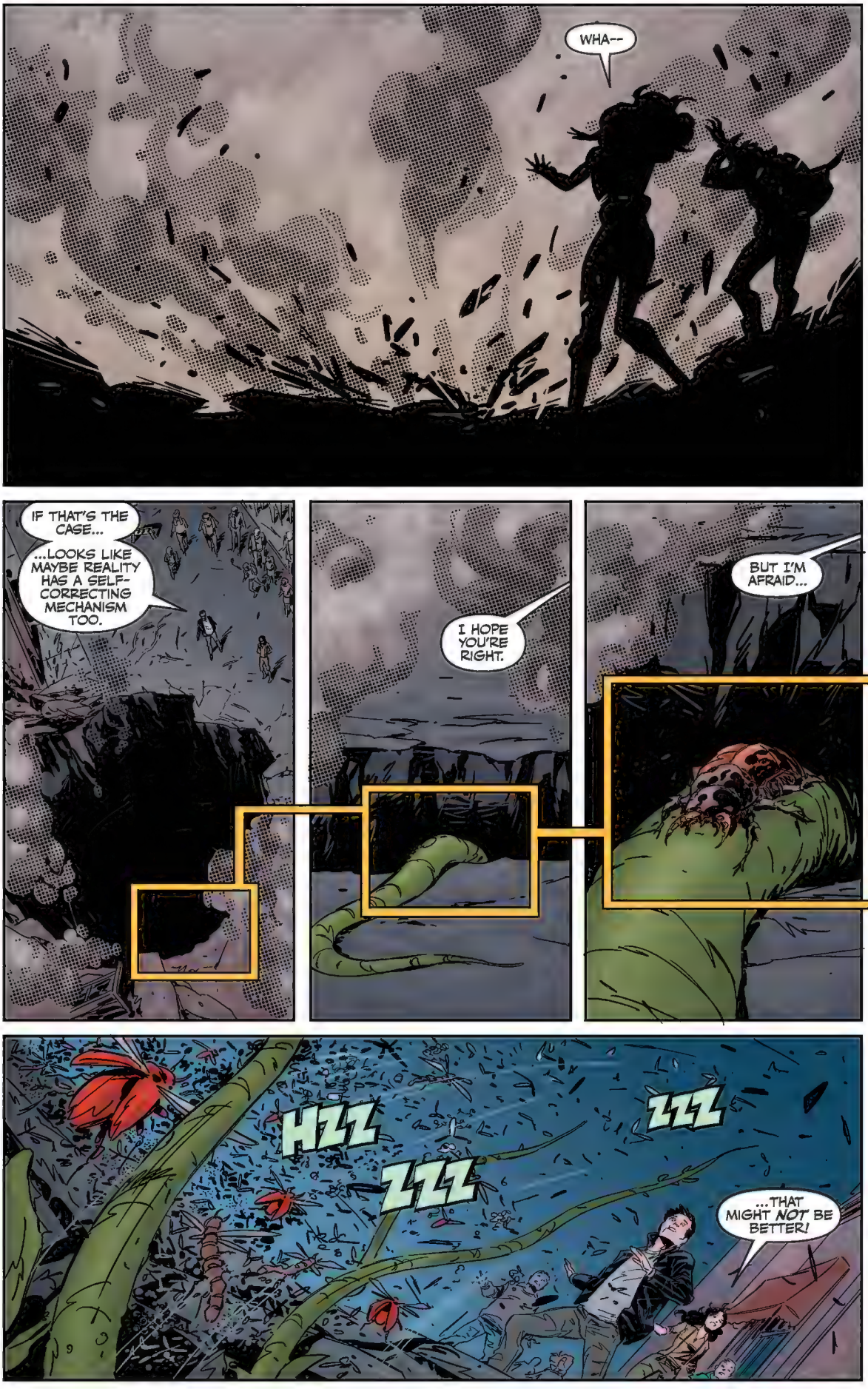
BUT...
HOW DO WE FIGHT SOMETHING LIKE *THIS?*
NO OFFENSE, FRED, BUT NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO LET *ILLYRIA* THROUGH!
I ALREADY TRIED. SHE WON'T LISTEN!
SAYS WE'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HER.

THEN I GUESS IT'S UP TO US...
...AS USUAL.
GO ON, GET OUT OF HERE!
AAH!
ANGEL, WAIT!
WE CAN'T JUST RUN INTO THIS ONE WITHOUT THINKING IT THROUGH!
OH, HELL.
OF COURSE THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

WHK
GET HIM OUT OF HERE!
GO!
SLISH
LOOKED LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP GIVING HELP.

WELL, YOU'RE NOT WRONG.
BUT I'M NOT ILLYRIA, AND THINGS ARE *STILL* GETTING WORSE.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
...WE'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT THIS THING WITHOUT FIGURING OUT WHAT IT IS FIRST.
AGREED. JUST PUNCHING IT ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
MAYBE IF WE WENT AFTER ITS ROOTS?
SURELY SOMEONE HAS ALREADY CALLED IN A TANKER FULL OF WEED KILLER.
HONESTLY, I SUSPECT THAT WON'T WORK EITHER. I THINK IT ONLY *LOOKS* LIKE A PLANT.

ANGEL, WHAT IF ILLYRIA'S RIGHT?
I MEAN, NOT JUST HER, ALL OF US.
I HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THAT KIND OF THINKING. IT'S ALMOST NEVER USEFUL.
I DON'T MEAN, LIKE, PHILOSOPHICALLY. I MEAN, LITERALLY.
YOU'RE ALREADY AN... UNUSUAL TYPE OF PERSON. DEAD, BUT ALIVE, VAMPIRE, BUT WITH A SOUL...
AND YOU PROBABLY WALKED ON THIS EXACT SPOT AS THREE DIFFERENT PEOPLE: LIAM, ANGELUS, AND ANGEL.
DIFFERENT, BUT THE SAME.
AND THEN YOU WENT AND MET YOUR FORMER SELF, SO THERE ARE MEMORIES OF YOUR FUTURE SELF...
WHAT IF IT'S ALL JUST, I DON'T KNOW...
...A BIT TOO MUCH FOR REALITY TO BEAR AND IT KIND OF...CRACKED? LIKE A MIRR--
KRRR-ACK


WHA--
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...LOOKS LIKE MAYBE REALITY HAS A SELF-CORRECTING MECHANISM TOO.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT I'M AFRAID...
HZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
...THAT MIGHT NOT BE BETTER!

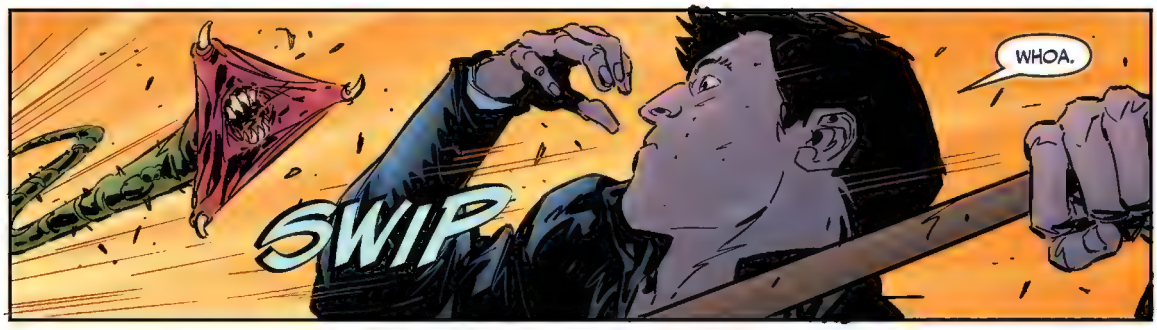
HZZ
HZZ
AAAH!
WHA--
SHUT THE DOOR!
AND TRY TO BLOCK UP THE VENTS.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SOMEONE I CARE ABOUT...

...STILL NEEDS HELP.
HZZ
ZZZ
ARE YOU TOUCHED?
HEY, COME BACK!
SLISH
SLISH
HEY!

CATCH!
SCHKK
HZZ
SLISH
ANGEL!
ZZZ
HZZ

ANGEL, BE CAREFUL!
HOLD ON, FRED!
NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WE CAN'T KILL THEM THAT WAY...
ANGEL, WE JUST KEEP MAKING IT WORSE!

ANGEL, LOOK OUT!
DARK REFLECTIONS
PART FOUR

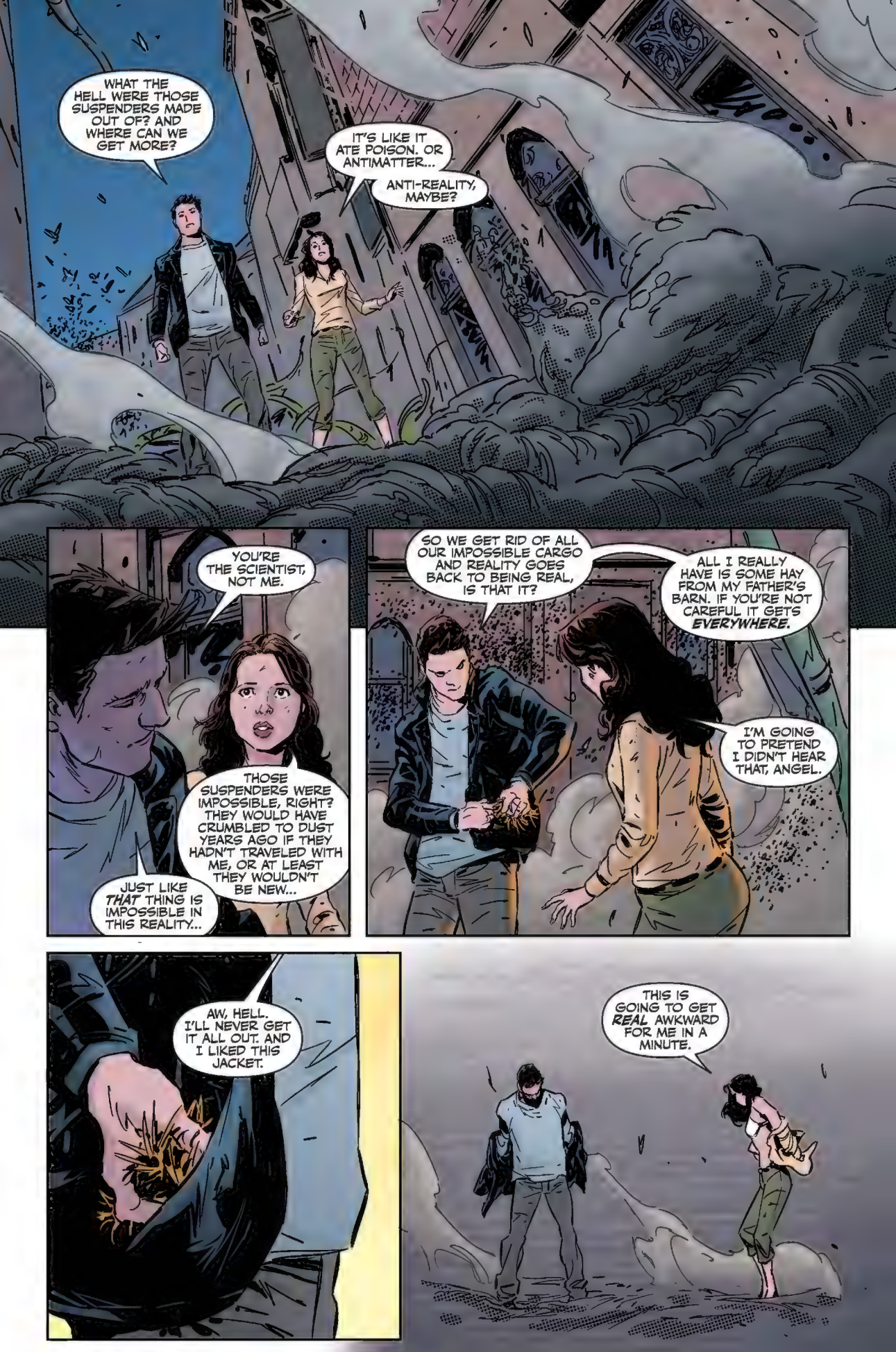

WHOA.
SWIP

HZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ

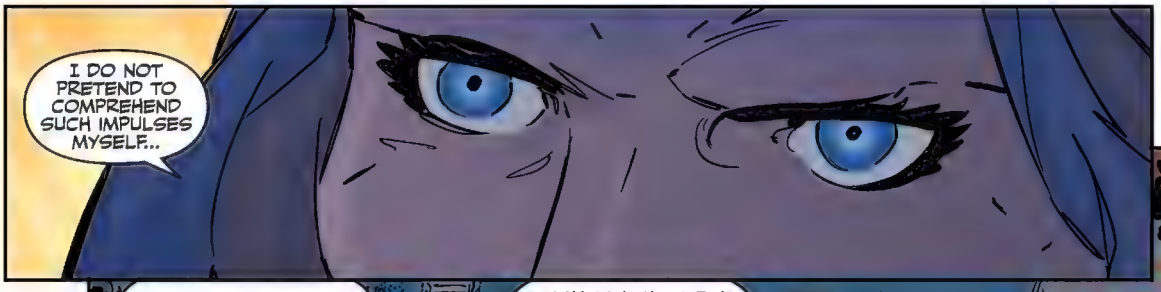
I'VE GOT YOU.
SLISH
OH NO.

SHIK
URK!
SNAP
AAAH!
THANKS, ANGEL.
TOO BAD ABOUT MY SUSPENDERS, THOUGH. I KINDA LIKED THE IDEA OF A SOUVENIR.

SKRRCH
HUSSSS
USSSS
HUSSSSSSS
HUH.
HMM.


WHAT THE HELL WERE THOSE SUSPENDERS MADE OUT OF? AND WHERE CAN WE GET MORE?
IT'S LIKE IT ATE POISON. OR ANTIMATTER...
ANTI-REALITY, MAYBE?
YOU'RE THE SCIENTIST, NOT ME.
THOSE SUSPENDERS WERE IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT? THEY WOULD HAVE CRUMBLED TO DUST YEARS AGO IF THEY HADN'T TRAVELED WITH ME, OR AT LEAST THEY WOULDN'T BE NEW...
JUST LIKE *THAT* THING IS IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS REALITY...
SO WE GET RID OF ALL OUR IMPOSSIBLE CARGO AND REALITY GOES BACK TO BEING REAL, IS THAT IT?
ALL I REALLY HAVE IS SOME HAY FROM MY FATHER'S BARN. IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL IT GETS ***EVERYWHERE.***
I'M GOING TO PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT, ANGEL.
AW, HELL. I'LL NEVER GET IT ALL OUT. AND I LIKED THIS JACKET.
THIS IS GOING TO GET ***REAL*** AWKWARD FOR ME IN A MINUTE.

YOU WOULDN'T COME THROUGH TO HELP ME *FIGHT* THIS THING...
BUT YOU SHOW UP BECAUSE FRED'S *MODEST?*


I DO NOT PRETEND TO COMPREHEND SUCH IMPULSES MYSELF...

IT IS ENOUGH THAT IT WAS MAKING FRED UNCOMFORTABLE.
WE HAVE ACHIEVED A CERTAIN SYMPATHY. *YOU* DO NOT NEED TO UNDERSTAND IT.
THIS IS NEW.

HUSSSSSSSSS
IT'S WORKING!

NO...
SHIK
IT IS GROWING AGAIN.
IT MUST BE *YOU*. YOU ARE CAUSING THIS.
ME? WE *BOTH* TRAVELED THROUGH TIME. WHY ONLY *ME*?
NOT YOU, *YOURSELF*. SOMETHING YOU POSSESS. SOMETHING YOU BROUGHT FORWARD.
SOMETHING YOU *MUST* NOW GIVE UP.
WHY DO YOU HESITATE?

IT'S SMALLER NOW.
WE COULD FIGHT IT AND WIN THIS TIME. I KNOW IT.
BUT WHY? WHEN WE CAN INSTEAD SEND IT STRAIGHT BACK TO ITS OWN HELL?
YOU MAKE IT SOUND EASY.
IT CAN BE. BUT IT MAY SOON GROW FAR ENOUGH INTO OUR REALITY THAT THERE WILL BE *NO STOPPING IT AT ALL.*
SO MUCH HAS BEEN LOST...
DO I REALLY HAVE TO GIVE *THIS* UP AS WELL?
IT FEELS LIKE KATHY BEING KILLED ALL OVER AGAIN.

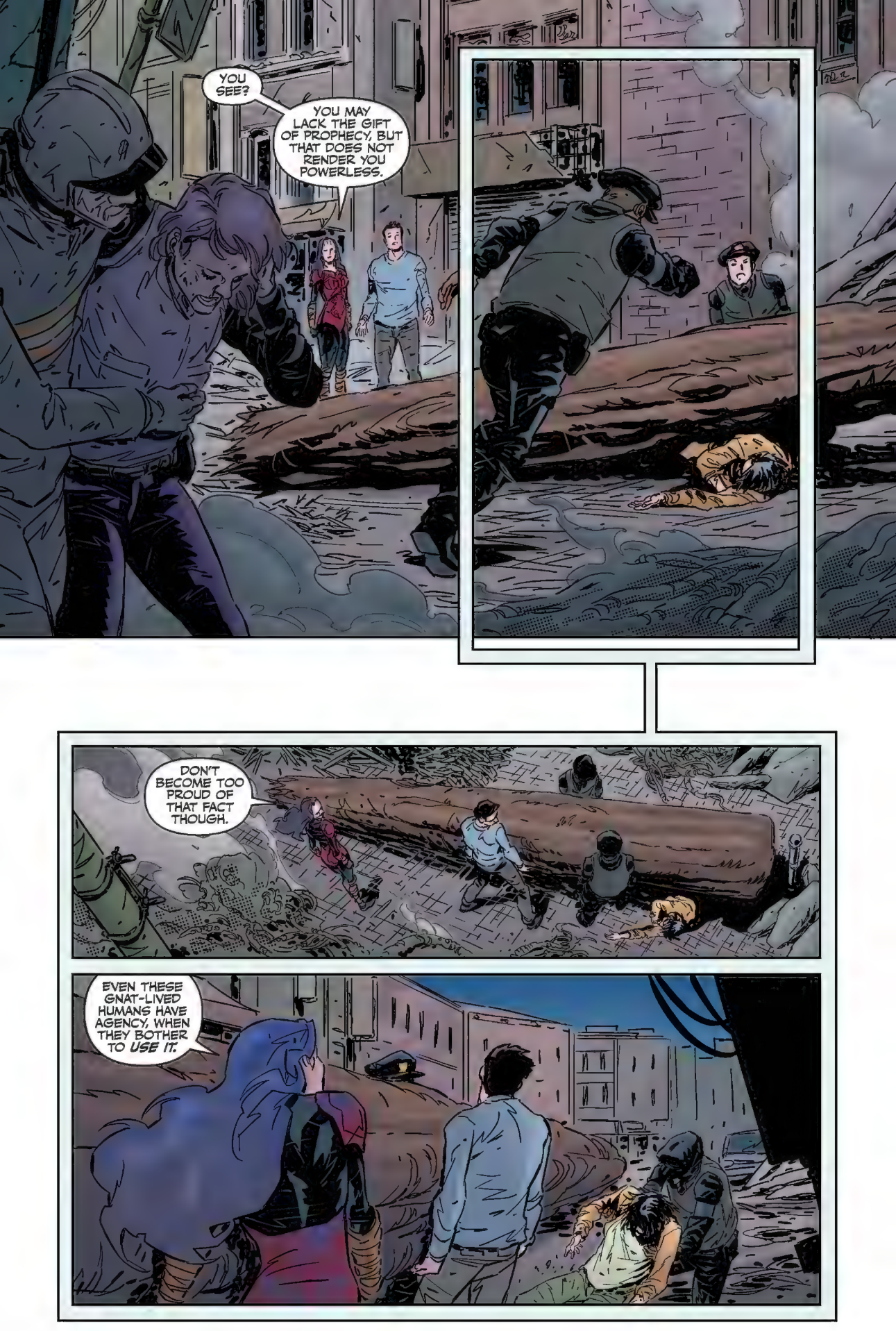
DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?
GRIEF AND NOSTALGIA SEEM TWIN BURDENS OF HAVING BOTH A SOUL AND A LONG LIFE.
IT IS HARSH, BUT KATHY *IS* DEAD. SHE *CANNOT* DIE AGAIN. SHE CANNOT KNOW IF YOU ARE *LOYAL* TO HER MEMORY.
HZZ
HZZ
AAAAHH!
BUT HERE, NOW, *OTHERS* CAN BE SAVED.
I WON'T PRETEND TO KNOW IF THEY *DESERVE* TO BE.

THAT JUDGMENT IS NOW YOURS TO MAKE.
BUT HOW DO I KNOW THIS WON'T MAKE EVERYTHING EVEN WORSE?
WHAT IF ALL I DO IS ERASE KATHY?
KATHY TRUSTED YOU. SHE BELIEVED YOU WERE A GOOD MAN, NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE ELSE SAID.
NOTHING CHANGES THAT. UNLESS YOU PROVE HER WRONG.

CK-CLNK

HUSSSSSSS
IT WOULD APPEAR THE CRISIS HAS BEEN AVERTED.
MAYBE...

SO ALL THIS...
IT'S MY FAULT.
IN A WAY, YES.
IF YOU NEVER EXISTED IN THIS TIME AND PLACE, IT IS LIKELY NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
BUT IN ANOTHER WAY, NO.
YOU ARE NO GOD, AT LEAST NOT ANY MORE. YOU DO NOT CREATE AND DESTROY. YOU CANNOT SEE THE FUTURE.
BUT...
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF HOW THINGS WORK. I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.
NOT EVEN I COULD DO THAT. THE MISTAKE WAS UNFORESEEN, AND MORE MY FAULT THAN YOURS.
EVEN SO, IT WAS YOU WHO KEPT ME FROM THE BRINK. THAT WAS NO MISTAKE.
IT WAS YOUR CHOICE THAT HEALED THE RIFT.


YOU SEE?
YOU MAY LACK THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, BUT THAT DOES NOT RENDER YOU POWERLESS.
DON'T BECOME TOO PROUD OF THAT FACT THOUGH.
EVEN THESE GNAT-LIVED HUMANS HAVE AGENCY, WHEN THEY BOTHER TO *USE IT.*

ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO TALK TO *ME* ABOUT *GUILT?*
I MERELY STATE THE OBVIOUS.

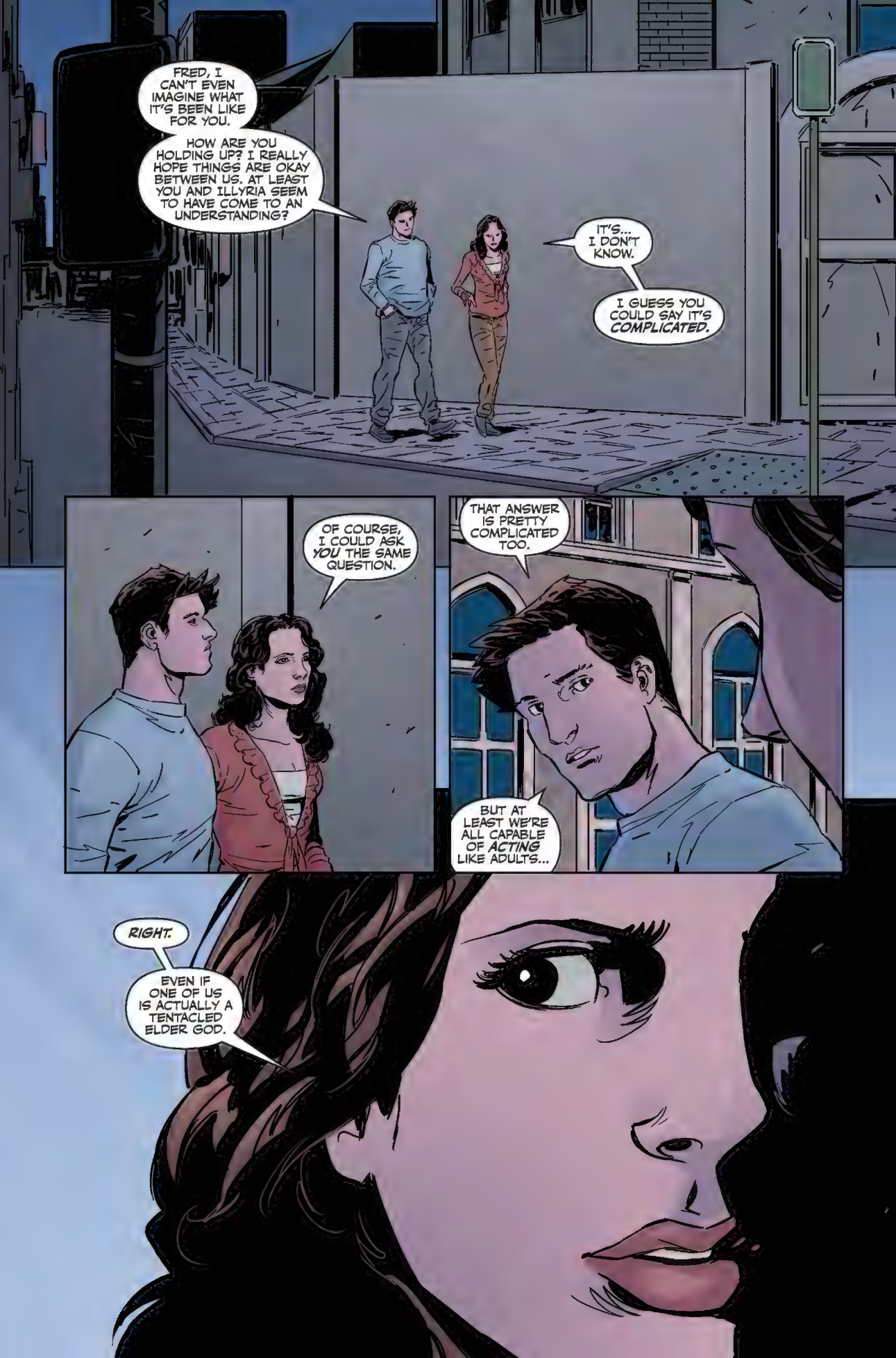
IF YOU ACCEPT BLAME, YOU MUST ALSO ACCEPT PRAISE. HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED THAT YET?
DECISIONS WERE MADE. SOME WERE LESS THAN HELPFUL.

BUT THE OUTCOME WAS EVERYTHING DESIRED, YES?
I SUPPOSE THAT'S ONE WAY TO PUT IT.

WAS THAT A PEP TALK YOU JUST GAVE ME, ILLYRIA?
YOU CERTAINLY ARE FULL OF SURPRISES.
I MAY BE SHACKLED TO A MORTAL, BUT I AM *STILL* A GODDESS.

DON'T FORGET THAT, OR *YOU* MAY GET MORE OF A SURPRISE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR.

THINGS GET A LITTLE TOO HUMAN FOR ILLYRIA?
SHE'S SO TOUCHY SOMETIMES!
YOU KNOW HOW IMMORTALS ARE. THE LONGER YOU LIVE, THE HARDER IT IS TO KEEP YOUR TEMPER.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I THINK IT'S MORE THAT SHE SOMETIMES FORGETS THAT *YOU* USED TO BE MORTAL.
BUT SHE RESPECTS YOU. IF SHE DIDN'T, SHE NEVER WOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU TRAVELING IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I DON'T KNOW, SHE'S AWFULLY IMPULSIVE SOMETIMES. NOT LIKE YOU.
YEAH. *WELL.*


FRED, I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT IT'S BEEN LIKE FOR YOU.
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP? I REALLY HOPE THINGS ARE OKAY BETWEEN US. AT LEAST YOU AND ILLYRIA SEEM TO HAVE COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING?
IT'S... I DON'T KNOW.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT'S *COMPLICATED.*
OF COURSE, I COULD ASK *YOU* THE SAME QUESTION.
THAT ANSWER IS PRETTY COMPLICATED TOO.
BUT AT LEAST WE'RE ALL CAPABLE OF *ACTING* LIKE ADULTS...
RIGHT.
EVEN IF ONE OF US IS ACTUALLY A TENTACLED ELDER GOD.

I DON'T EVER WANT THINGS TO BE *NOT* OKAY BETWEEN US.
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS.
I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT EVERYTHING THROUGH BETTER. I SHOULD HAVE...
I JUST SHOULD HAVE *THOUGHT.*
TIME TRAVEL SHOULD COME WITH A WARNING LABEL.
DANGER: MAY CAUSE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES.
SAME GOES FOR TWO PEOPLE SHARING ONE BODY.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? AS ILLYRIA AND I HAVE GOTTEN USED TO LIVING TOGETHER, WE'VE ALSO LEARNED A SECRET.
NO MATTER WHO IS IN CONTROL, NEITHER OF US CAN *FORCE* A DECISION THE OTHER IS TRULY AGAINST.
LIKE I SAID, IT'S COMPLICATED.

ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT *OKAY* IS A MOVING TARGET.
WE'VE JUST GOT TO ADAPT. MAYBE WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST BUT AT LEAST WE CAN TRY TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE.
THAT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE WHAT ILLYRIA WAS SAYING BEFORE SHE LEFT.
WE DO AGREE ON *SOME* THINGS, YOU KNOW.
IF YOU TWO START DOING THAT MORE OFTEN I'M NOT SURE HOW I'M GOING TO DEAL WITH IT.
I GUESS YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY.
GOOD. I'M GLAD WE'VE GOT THAT SETTLED. WHAT NOW?

A HOTEL WOULDN'T BE A BAD IDEA.
GOOD CALL. THE SUN WILL BE UP SOON.
AND I THINK ALL THREE OF US DESERVE TO SLEEP IN TOMORROW.
ANY PREFERENCE ON WHERE TO STAY?
YEAH.
ANYWHERE THAT ISN'T HAUNTED.
The End.

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Joss Whedon is one of Hollywood's top creators, scripting several hit films including *Marvel's The Avengers*, which was a breakout success and became one of the highest grossing films of all time, and its sequel *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, and creating one of television's most critically praised shows, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. In 2000, Whedon garnered his first Emmy nomination in the category of Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series for his groundbreaking episode entitled "Hush," and he earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Screenplay with Disney's box-office smash *Toy Story*. Originally hailing from New York, Whedon is a third-generation television writer. His grandfather and father were both successful sitcom writers on shows such as *The Donna Reed Show*, *Leave It to Beaver*, and *The Golden Girls*.

Corinna Bechko has been writing comics and prose since her horror graphic novel *Heathentown* was published by Image/Shadowline in 2009. She has worked for numerous publishers including Marvel, DC, Image, Dynamite, Dark Horse, and Sideshow on titles such as *Star Wars: Legacy*, *Savage Hulk*, *Aliens/Vampirella*, *Once Upon a Time*, *Court of the Dead: The Chronicle of the Underworld* and the Hugo-nominated series *Invisible Republic*, co-written with Gabriel Hardman. In addition, she was recently short-listed for the Aeon Award for her prose short story "Sutterkin." Her background is in zoology and it usually shows. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and a small menagerie.

Zé Carlos is an illustrator and comics artist based out of Sao Paulo, Brazil. His comic work includes *Angel*, *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*, and more.

Geraldo Borges is a comics artist based out of Santiago, Chile. His work includes *Angel*, *Nova*, *Nightwing*, *Green Lantern*, and more.

Michelle Madsen is a colorist whose extensive work includes *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Batman*, and *Star Wars*.

Richard Starkings is a letterer and the president of Comicraft, founded in 1992. He is also a comics writer, whose books include *Elephantmen*, *The Beef*, and *Ask for Mercy*.

Jimmy Betancourt is a letterer with Comicraft, whose work spans *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Doctor Who*, *Transformers*, and *Wolverine*.

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Writer **Corinna Bechko** (from the Eisner Award-nominated *Green Lantern: Earth One*), along with artists **Geraldo Borges** and **Zé Carlos**, present the next chapter in the official continuation Joss Whedon's critically acclaimed television series.

Collects *Angel Season 11 #1-12.*

"If the past is haunting Angel, there's no telling where this story can go, but I'm eager to see where. The story is intriguing and the art top notch. Recommended."

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